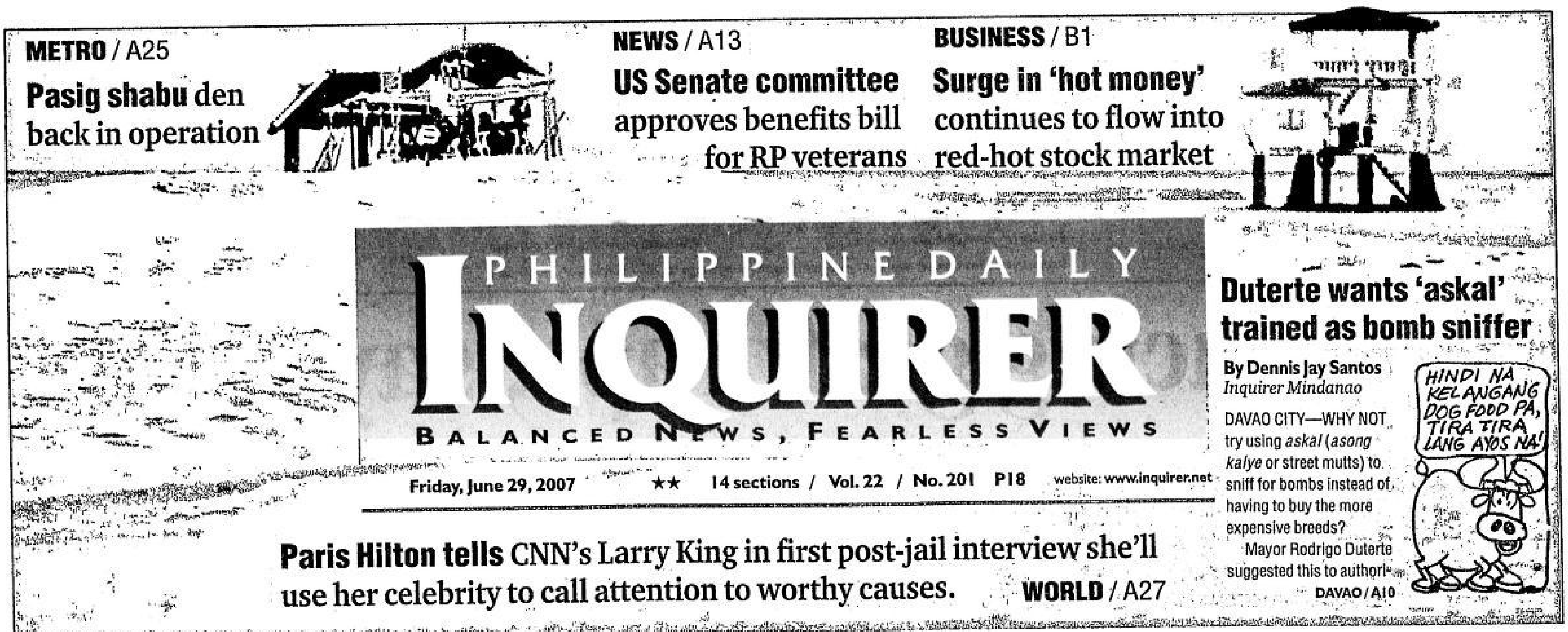

METRO / A25

Pasig shabu den back in operation

NEWS / A13

US Senate committee approves benefits bill for RP veterans

BUSINESS / B1

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, June 29, 2007 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 201 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Duterte wants 'askal' trained as bomb sniffer

By Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

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DAVAO / A10

Paris Hilton tells CNN's Larry King in first post-jail interview she'll use her celebrity to call attention to worthy causes. **WORLD** / A27

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But Pimentel vows fight is not over for 12th slot

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. , Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning

THE RACE FOR THE 12TH SPOT IN THE SENATE remained too close to call even as the Supreme Court yesterday junked Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III's petition to stop the Commission on Elections from tallying the Maguindanao votes, paving the way for the poll body to continue the tally of the provincial certificate of canvass (CoC).

"The Supreme Court en banc voted unanimously not to issue a TRO (temporary restraining order)," Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said.

Juan Miguel Zubiri was ecstatic. "I am just happy and delighted. Thank God. Democracy will prevail in this country," he told reporters.

Unofficial results of the recanvassing this week of the 22 municipal CoCs from Maguindanao showed Zubiri of the administration's Team Unity (TU) with a province-wide total of 195,823 votes. Pimentel of the Genuine Opposition (GO) got 67,111 votes.

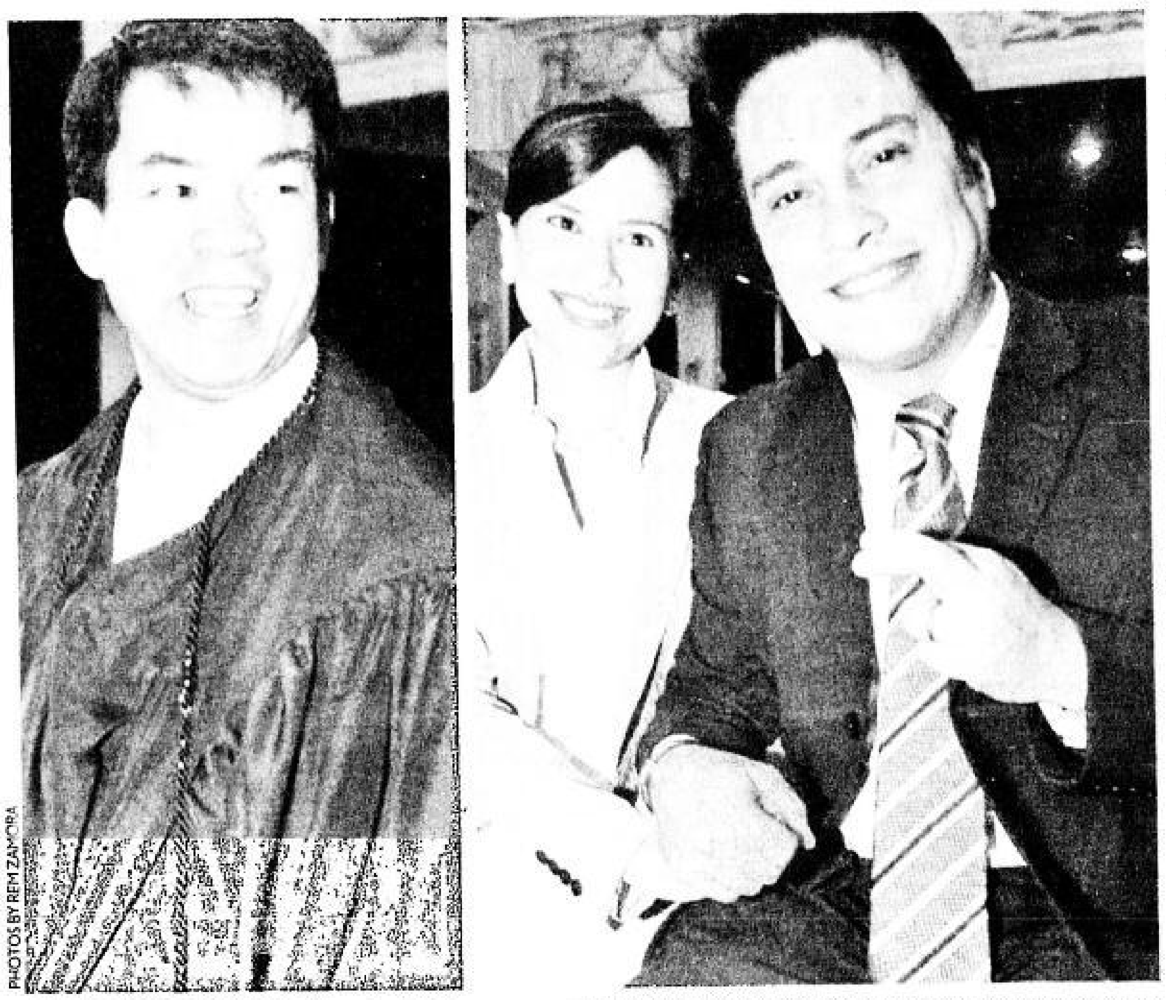
Before the Maguindanao municipal CoCs were canvassed, Pimentel was leading Zubiri by more than 111,000 votes.

But two more municipalities—Bogo in Cebu and Bais in Negros Oriental—with about 80,000 registered voters have not been canvassed.

The Comelec convening as the National Board of Canvassers, also postponed the tabulation of the controversial Maguindanao CoC, which arrived around 5 p.m. yesterday.

The NBC tabulated last night

SC JUNKS/ A10



SUPREMELY CONFIDENT. Keeping his fingers crossed, Miguel Zubiri (right) with wife Audrey exudes supreme confidence that he's going to be the 12th winning senator. But so does Pimentel. Lawyering for himself, the bar topnotcher is dressed in the courtly robe signifying the majesty of the law. He also wears a wide smile.

Burgoses may get 'restricted' documents

By Christine O. Avendaño

MILITARY LAWYERS ARE NOW studying whether a "restricted" report being demanded by the mother of missing activist-agriculturist Jonas Burgos may be released to her.

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has ordered the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) to look into the matter, AFP information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said at a briefing yesterday.

Bacarro said a study by the Jago was necessary because the AFP was bound by a disclosure policy restricting the release of military documents "classified as part of security."

BURGOSES / A23

AFP: We can beat NPA rebs without US help

PRESIDENT Arroyo receives Adm. Timothy Keating, chief of the US Pacific Command, on Thursday. They reportedly discussed cooperation for regional security. Ms Arroyo also thanked the US government for relief and rescue missions during the recent typhoons that hit the country and for the presence of the USS Peleleu which ferried US Navy men doing humanitarian work in the typhoon-ravaged areas in Bicol. LYN RILLON

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE MILITARY CAN VERY WELL fight and defeat the communist New People's Army (NPA) without the help of the United States, the military's spokesperson said yesterday.

"Strategically, yes. Strategically (we can beat them)," Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, information chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told reporters when asked whether the AFP could crush the NPA without US assistance.

Bacarro said the military was even ahead of its deadline to defeat the rebels by 2010.

He was reacting to the statement of the US Pacific Command chief, Adm. Timothy Keating, that Washington was willing to help Manila fight the NPA.

Bacarro said it was up to the AFP leadership to respond to Keating's statement.

At a briefing, Bacarro said he was not in a position to respond whether the country would take up the offer of Keating as this was a policy issue.

Here on a five-day visit, Keating the other day said the United States would continue to support the Philippines in its fight against Islamic militants—the Abu Sayyaf and Indonesia's Jemaah Islamiyah.

The US Pacific Command

AFP/ A21

'Our side not heard in 'dirty war' report'

"UNFAIR" AND "ONE-SIDED" was how the Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday described the report of a New York-based rights group criticizing the Arroyo administration for the unabated extrajudicial killings and the AFP's "dirty war" against leftist activists.

AFP information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said Human Rights Watch had used "old facts" and information from the local rights group Karapatan in making its case against the military.

According to Bacarro, Human Rights Watch quoted Karapatan's claim that it had counted more than 800 extrajudicial killings since 2001 when it was later proven by Task Force Usig that only about 114 such cases "actually exist."

The task force formed by the Philippine National Police looked into the cases being claimed by Karapatan as extrajudicial killings of leftist activists, Bacarro said. Of these cases, he said, "only a very, very small percentage is attributed to the AFP."

In its new report highlighting years of rights abuse in the Philippines, Human Rights Watch said the AFP was waging "a dirty war"

OUR SIDE/ A23

Inquirer bags 4 JVO journalism awards

AN INQUIRER STORY ON HOW the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System messed up the military pension fund yesterday won the top prize in the investigative report category open to daily newspapers in the 18th Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism (JVOAEJ).

"Untangling the RSBS Mess," published in the INQUIRER on Nov. 13-16, 2006, was written by Fe B. Zamora, who received a plaque and a P70,000 cash prize.

Zamora's well-researched report was cited as "the first and so far the only one on the subject to make sense of the complex story of a military pension system that, while meant to benefit rank-and-file soldiers, instead became a losing investment house."

INQUIRER/ A22

ERIK ARAZAS

WINNERS ALL: Maribel Ongpin (extreme left) and Fr. Alberto V. Ampil S.J. (extreme right) flank the winners of the JVO Awards for Excellence in Journalism. From left are PDI publisher Isagani Yambot, Fe Zamora, 1st prize in investigative reporting, daily division, and Melvin Gascon, 2nd prize, investigative reporting, daily division.

Worldwide distrust of Bush, US deepens, int'l survey shows

WASHINGTON—DISTRUST OF US foreign policy and US President George W. Bush has intensified around the globe and even in countries that are some of the closest US allies, while Russia and China also face growing international wariness, according to a new survey.

Support for the US-led war in Iraq, the NATO military action in Afghanistan and worldwide American efforts against terrorism have dropped since 2002, according to an international survey by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center that was released on Wednesday.

Views of the United States in much of the Muslim world remain particularly negative.

Overall views of America, however, remain very or somewhat favorable among majorities in 25 of 46 countries and the Palestini-

WORLDWIDE/ A23

METRO / A25

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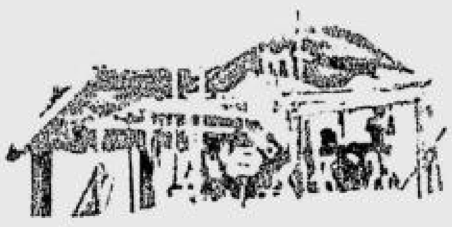

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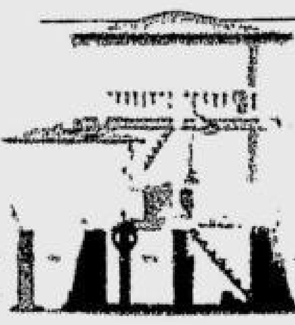

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By Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

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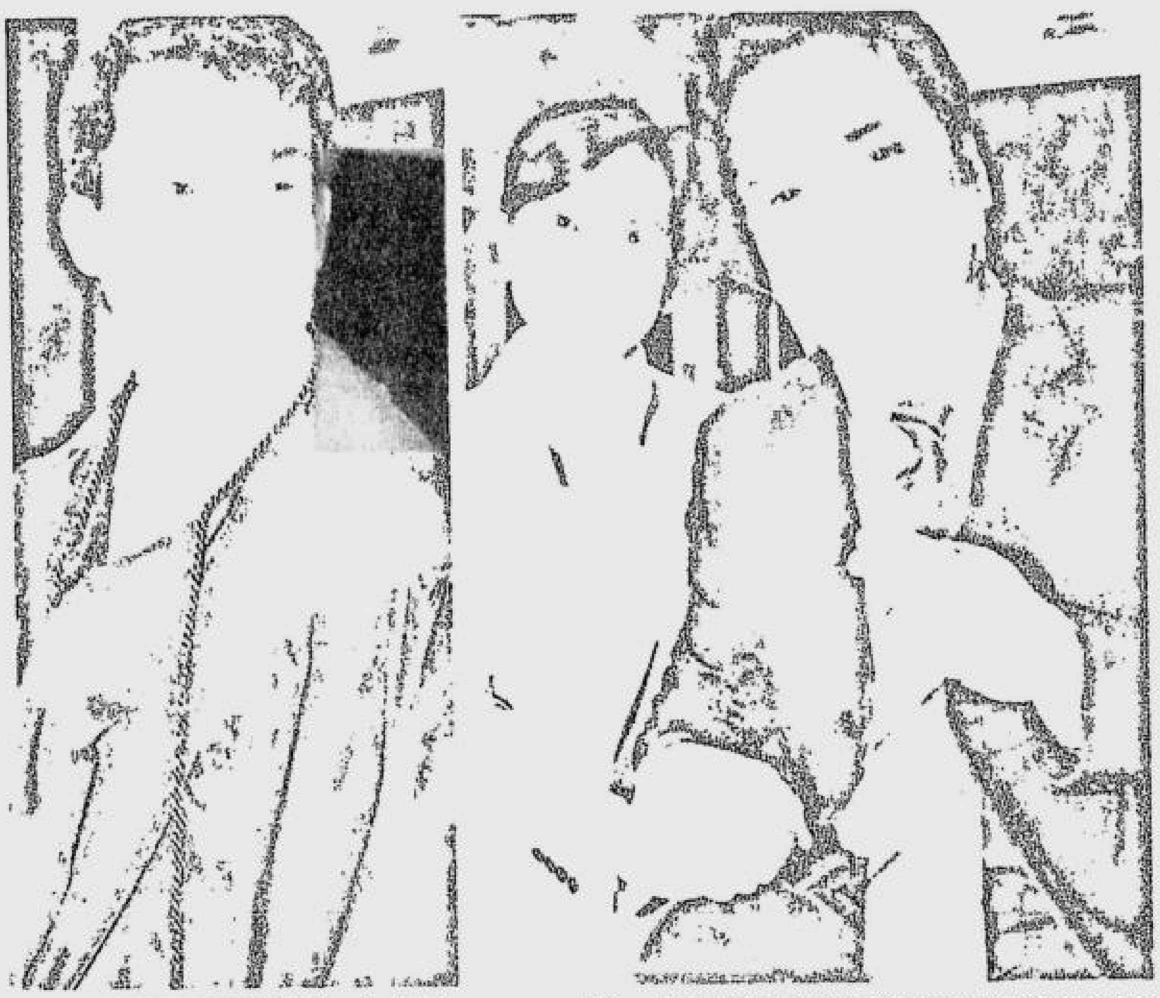
SC JUNKS/ A10



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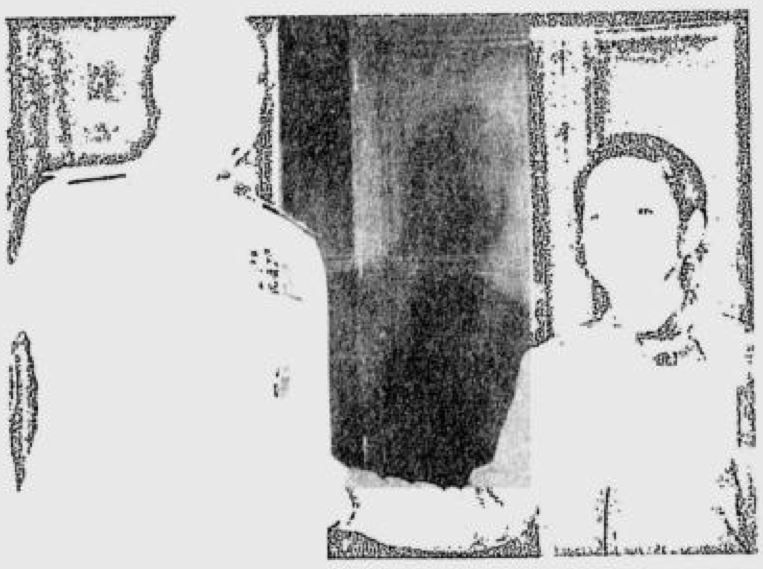

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AFP/ A21

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OUR SIDE/ A23

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INQUIRER A22

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WORLDWIDE/ A23

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/06/28/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Teves facing graft raps, say solons

By Alcuin Papa

STRIKING BACK AT THEIR ACCUSER, NEGROS Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves, congressmen-members of the Commission on Appointments yesterday claimed that Teves' son, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, was himself involved in extortion.

At a press conference yesterday, the congressmen led by Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay revealed details of a graft case against the younger Teves, using information that came to light during CA confirmation hearings.

They also asked the father to issue a public apology and the son to resign from the Cabinet.

The senior Teves claimed that a group of House members in the CA had demanded money from his son, the finance secretary, in exchange for his confirmation. The younger Teves did not get his confirmation but has been reappointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The congressmen released documents used that surfaced during the younger Teves' confirmation hearings in October 2006 that revealed that lawyer Daniel Romana had filed graft and other charges against Teves before the Ombudsman in 2005.

The case was unearthed by the CA's Appointment Review Service during the confirmation hearings. The graft case is still pending before the Ombudsman.

Romana complained that he was unable to withdraw P10 million from the Land Bank of the Philippines representing his partial share in the 1,265-hectare Pujalte Estate in Taytay, Palawan. Teves was president of the LBP at the time.

Romana claimed that he was the sole surviving counsel and trustee of the estate and that the tract of land in question was covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

Romana claimed that he was unable to withdraw the money from the bank because Teves allegedly wanted him to settle for half the amount (P5 million) and to give the other half as a commission to Iloilo Rep. Narciso Monfort—a brother-in-law of Reynaldo Guevarra, Romana's former business partner and a friend of Teves—and to a legal group at the Land Bank, according to the CA documents which were shown to reporters by the congressmen.

Suplico said Romana surfaced before the CA hearings to oppose the appointment of Teves who denied his allegations.

The office of the finance secretary yesterday issued a statement saying that the extortion allegation was nothing new and had already been answered.

The statement explained that the P9.9 million that Romana was trying to withdraw from the Land Bank was compensation for the government's acquisition of a 865.31-hectare property in Taytay, Palawan, from the Pujalte Lumber Co.

"But his [Romana's] claim has no legal basis. The company never appointed him as legal trustee and no court has ever recognized him as legal trustee," the statement said.

Romana's complaint was only meant to harass and coerce the Land Bank into releasing the land compensation proceeds to him, Teves' office said.

"Land Bank did not accede to his demand because of the above reasons and the fact that there were two other claimants. These various conflicting claims, in fact, compelled the Land Bank to file a complaint for interpleader before the RTC of Manila so that the court could determine the rightful claimant. The LBP is awaiting the final ruling of the RTC on the interpleader case filed by the bank," the statement said.

An interpleader is a proceeding devised to enable a person of whom the same debt, duty or thing is claimed adversely by two or more parties to compel them to litigate the right or title between themselves and thereby to relieve himself from the suit which they might otherwise bring against him.

Besides Suplico and Pichay, those who attended the press conference were Northern Samar Rep. Harlin Abayon, Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso, and Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis.

Asked if their revelations were meant to divert attention from the older Teves' accusations, Suplico said "we are talking here with documents at hand. The old man is talking without any documents. He can't even give places or times. You can't allege something without proof. It's been one week but we have yet to see proof." *With a report from Michelle V. Remo*

Palace behind Manny – Miriam

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG IS BACKING THE BID of Senate President Manuel "Manny" Villar to retain his post in the 14th Congress, according to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Santiago said Villar, who won reelection with the Genuine Opposition ticket, engaged Ms Arroyo in a "cordial dialogue" during Santiago's birthday party on June 15.

Santiago said Villar's "sure reelection" as Senate President would give him the edge over his supposed potential rivals in the 2010 presidential election—Senators Manuel "Mar" Roxas, Panfilo Lacson, Richard Gordon, Loren Legarda and Jamby Madrigal.

She cited his "advantage of continuous media exposure and speaking engagements that would broaden his base and, at the same time, enable him to strengthen his party machinery."

"Manny trumps all the 'presidentiables' with his capture of the Senate presidency. The others will have to settle for running as his vice presidential candidate," Santiago said.

Villar's main rival for the Senate presidency is Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who is supposedly being backed by the majority of the GO candidates who won in the recent elections.

But with Villar's decision to seek Malacañang's support, Lacson said the opposition's ranks would be reduced to a mere minority.

Santiago said that with Villar getting another term as Senate President, other senators belonging to the administration coalition who are backing him would get to keep their committee chairmanships.

"In other words, the status quo will be observed more or less," she said.

She added in a statement that Villar would "observe an attitude of enlightened skepticism in cooperating with Malacañang on administration bills."

Santiago said that at her party attended by 80 guests led by the First Couple, "Manny engaged the President in a cordial dialogue about administration-certified measures. I gathered that he intends to remain open-minded, meaning that he will not be a knee-jerk oppositionist."

Villar appears to have secured the vote of the "Manny Majority" for the Senate's top post, effectively killing off the threat posed by Pimentel.

In a phone interview with reporters, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said 13 senators including himself had signed a manifesto expressing their commitment to vote for Villar when the new session opens on July 23.

Enrile said he saw the lone copy of the signed manifesto.

The senators reported to have signed the paper were, aside from Enrile, Lito Lapid, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Gregorio Honasan, Francis Pangilinan, Richard Gordon, Joker Arroyo, Edgardo Angara, Francis Escudero, Pia Cayetano and her brother Alan Peter, Jinggoy Estrada and Santiago.

CHIEF Justice Reynato Puno (right) administers the oath of office to Sen. Gregorio Honasan at the Supreme Court yesterday. At left is Honasan's wife, Jane. EDWIN BACASMAS

Honasan: I'll be independent despite dismissal of charges

By Leila B. Salaverria and DJ Yap

THE DISMISSAL OF COUP D'ETAT CHARGES against him does not make him an administration senator, said Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

The cashiered Army colonel, a one-time senator who ran as an independent candidate, insisted he would remain an independent.

Honasan, whose involvement in other coups was covered by an amnesty proclamation during the Ramos administration, attributed his being cleared of the latest coup charges to a "working justice system," not to a deal with Malacañang.

Honasan said he would study the need to upgrade the "outdated" military justice system so that soldiers can enjoy the same justice that he received outside the Armed Forces.

"The soldiers are first and foremost citizens and they must be beneficiaries of a working justice system also. Society owes that to them," Honasan said after taking his oath of office before Chief Justice Reynato Puno yesterday.

He said he would seek the help of colleagues in the Senate who are legal experts in revisiting the military justice system.

Asked if he would also consult with detained Navy lieutenant and Senator-elect Antonio Trillanes IV, who faces coup d'etat charges for leading the July 2003 failed coup for which Honasan was cleared, Honasan said Trillanes was not a lawyer.

Honasan said he wanted the Senate not to hew to any side.

"I will continue to remain independent because I expect also an independent Senate, not necessarily opposition, not necessarily influenced by the administration. Independent to respond to our real problems," he said.

Honasan said the election victory of the young senators, who belong to the opposition, should not be seen as a protest vote but as a "proactive vote for the future."

As for the reported "cavaliers club" in the chamber composed of Philippine Military Academy graduates, he said that may indeed come to be but he believed the Senate should work as a bloc.

"We cannot afford to chop up a small chamber like the Senate into smaller groupings ... What I expect is a bloc of 23 senators working behind the national agenda to respond to the real problems," he said.

Trillanes is all set to take his oath as a senator today after the Makati judge hearing his coup d'etat case granted him leave to attend the ceremony in a Caloocan City subdivision.

But Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel set strict conditions for Trillanes' temporary freedom.

There should be no deviation from the itinerary, from the start of the ceremony at the covered court of Christ the King Church at BF Subdivision at 10 a.m., until its end, which should be no later than 4 p.m., Pimentel said.

Trillanes is also prohibited from making any "seditious remarks or sub judice statements" during interviews.

Comelec meets on automation

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS YESTERday convened its Advisory Council to determine the "most appropriate, secure and cost-effective" automation technology to be used in the next major electoral exercise.

"The convening of the council signals the resumption of the commission's efforts to achieve a modernized election in the country," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said in a statement.

Abalos said the council would discuss the form of poll automation technology that the Comelec could utilize, whether partly or fully, for the election scheduled next year in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The council is chaired by the head of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology. Its members come from the science and education departments, the University of the Philippines' College of Engineering, three of the country's major ICT firms, and two poll watchdog groups.

The creation of the council is provided for under the recently enacted Republic Act No. 9369, or the Automated Election Systems Act of 2007.

The law stipulates that the council must be created not later than 18 months before the next general polls and deactivated six months after the completion of canvassing.

RA 9369 empowers the Comelec, on the advice of the council, to select the right automation technology to be used for an election.

The council's recommendations must be later referred to the Technical Evaluation Committee.

RA 9369 also provides for a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee which, among other things, will review the technology used in the previous elections and set new standards.

Congress intended the law to be enforced early this year, in time for the May 14 midterm elections. But the Comelec declined, invoking lack of time. *Jerome Aning*

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DFA names envoy tagged in shoplifting incident

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS last night finally identified Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Susan Castrence as the diplomat who was allegedly caught on camera shoplifting at the Yongsan military base exchange in South Korea.

The DFA released the statement issued by Castrence, who described the allegation against her as "unfounded."

Castrence was reacting to an article recently published in The Korean Herald which said a Filipino diplomat was caught on store video stealing a karaoke machine and a bottle of perfume in November 2006.

The paper, quoting sources in the US Provost Marshal's office, said the suspect was identified as a Filipino, but did not give a name.

In her statement, Castrence said she went to the commissary at Yongsan Base in November to shop for Christmas gifts for her staff.

She said she also intended to also buy a karaoke chip of children's songs, not a karaoke machine as reported by the newspaper, for her granddaughter in Manila.

She said she had with her another chip she had bought at the store earlier which she brought as a sample.

Castrence said that when she learned there were no new chips available, she returned the old chip to her handbag.

"This must have been the moment caught by the camera which gave the impression of shoplifting," she said.

At the perfume section, she said, she sprayed her wrist with a Gucci tester bottle but decided not to buy anything because it was expensive.

Castrence said that when she was about to leave the store, a security officer stopped her.

She said she allowed the security officer to look in her handbag. She said the guard found only the chip with a list of songs and no perfume.

Castrence also denied the allegation in the same article that US military policemen "went to the Philippine Embassy in Seoul and showed the video evidence to the suspect, who denied any wrongdoing."

The article, said Gen. Burwell Bell, commander of the United Nations Command and the US Forces in Korea (USFK), concerned the shoplifting incident that allegedly involved the diplomat.

Selected foreign diplomatic personnel are granted access to the US military base's store and commissary on a case-by-case basis as approved by USFK authorities.

Lower revenue take worries World Bank

THE WORLD BANK SOUNDED THE ALARM on Thursday over the Philippines' failure to meet its 5-month revenue target, saying it put into question the state's ability to sustain its fiscal reforms and meet deficit goals.

Outgoing country director Joachim Von Amsberg said the government should improve efficiency in its tax collection and protect revenue collectors from political pressure.

"The credibility of the government's reform programs and fiscal targets is very much at stake when after five months the data still shows weakness in tax collection," Amsberg told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

The country has set a budget deficit goal of P63 billion, or 0.9 percent of gross domestic product, for the year.

But financial markets are building in expectation the government will miss its full-year target for the first time in four years as tax collections have been disappointing.

Total revenue for the first five months of the year reached P432.6 billion, 8 percent short of the government's internal targets, and inefficiencies in tax collection and administration were blamed for the shortfall.

Amsberg said the government must get better at collecting what it is owed by fully implementing tax laws and reforms already in place.

He added: "The second element is just absolute steadfast political support to protect the revenue-generating agencies and that requires political commitment from the highest level to ensure the tax collectors can do their job effectively and for the benefit of public coffers."

President Macapagal-Arroyo sacked the head of the BIR this month for failing to meet targets.

"Meeting the target is important for credibility," Amsberg said. *Reuters*

BSP expects June inflation rate hike

By Daxim L. Lucas

PRICES OF GOODS AND SERVICES ARE EXpected to rise at a slightly faster clip this month, partly due to the higher cost of education as schools reopened in June, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

For government economic managers, however, the sustained increase in the inflation rate for June—if validated by official data next week—will confirm the growing sentiment that borrowing costs have hit bottom and may be on a slow path upward.

BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said the central monetary authority expected the inflation rate for June to rise by between 2.2 percent and 2.9 percent.

This is slightly higher than the 2.1 percent to 2.8 percent predicted by the central bank for May, with the actual figure recorded at 2.4 percent.

"A slightly higher inflation [rate] in June, relative to May, is possible amid the increase in tuition as well as oil and some food prices," Tetangco said.

He said he was optimistic about the price situation, saying, "Overall, the inflation environment remains favorable."

The central bank chief's language suggests that policy-makers can keep the BSP's key interest rate unchanged for the next few months. This means that borrowing costs for commercial and consumer loans will likely stay low, for now.

At the same time, however, Tetangco's statement shows that any interest rate cut is now out of the question.

The central bank uses the inflation rate as its main guide for setting interest rates. Interest rates, in turn, determine the cost of loans across the entire financial system.

Tetangco conceded that the central bank was now walking a tightrope, having to balance the need to keep inflation low with higher interest rates, but not high enough to discourage borrowing and stunt economic growth.

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DANIEL O. MERCADO MEDICAL CENTER

A story to be told. A vision to unfold.

50 YEARS
1957 2007

Messages

OFFICE OF THE HEALTH SECRETARY
Manila, Philippines

I send my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center on the holding of their 50th Anniversary.

Your long and fruitful years of meritorious and committed service to the people of Batangas and nearby areas have provided significant contributions and helped advance the knowledge and competence of healthcare providers.

The Department of Health extends its support as you remain loyal and dedicated to your noble undertakings as we move forward to further improve the delivery of basic healthcare services to our people. Congratulations and *mabuhay kayong lahat!*

HON. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE, MD, MSc
Secretary, Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIALGOVERNOR
Batangas City, Batangas

My warmest congratulations to all the people behind the Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center (DMMC) in Tanauan City as they celebrate their 50th Founding Anniversary. Indeed, this institution formerly known as Mercado Clinic, has come a long way since it started providing medical service in 1957.

Today, DMMC has more than 300 employees, more than a hundred doctors and is a Tertiary Level 4 Medical Facility. This a clear testament of its enduring commitment to provide quality service to its clients and thereby help them lead a normal and productive life.

My best wishes for the success of your 50th Anniversary!

HON. VILMA SANTOS-RECTO
Governor-Elect, Province of Batangas

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

The people of the 3rd District of Batangas and I extend our warm congratulations to the Management, Medical Doctors, Employees and Staff of the Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center on the occasion of your Golden Anniversary.

I am pleased to know that the tradition of personalized service and brotherly treatment which was pioneered by Dr. Daniel Mercado has been carried out with passion and dedication. Here lie the parameters of quality medical service where many people have been blessed, benefited, advanced or uplifted. May you further continue serving the people in our locality.

Mabuhay!

HON. VICKY H. REYES
Representative, 3rd District of Batangas

OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
Tanauan City, Batangas

On behalf of the City Government of Tanauan, I have the distinct honor to greet you, the Management and Employees of Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center (DMMC), on your 50th Founding Anniversary.

The City Government of Tanauan values the contributions of institution like yours, which pursues the delivery of good services towards improving the quality of life in the community, particularly the promotion of quality health services.

CONGRATULATIONS! I wish you more power and success in all your endeavors. *Mabuhay po tayong lahat!*

HON. SONIA T. AQUINO
City Mayor, Tanauan City

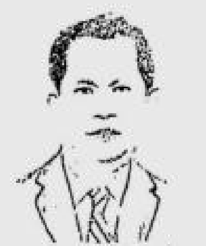
DANIEL O. MERCADO MEDICAL CENTER
Tanauan City, Batangas

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our appreciation and honor at the privilege of serving Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center during this historic occasion. Fifty years of service to the community is indeed a noteworthy achievement. Rest assured that the board will continue to find ways to improve delivery of quality health care to our people. We will not just aim to provide the best shareholder value. Instead we will help steer the course so that Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center may fulfill its vision of being the leading provider of quality healthcare in the CALABARZON.

EDWIN M. MERCADO, MD, FPOA
President and CEO

From Dream to Vision

The desire to help begins in the heart. The dream to heal belongs to but a few. A man… a dream… a heart that wanted to make a difference. This is where our story begins… the Daniel Mercado Medical Center.



Dr. Daniel O. Mercado

Orphaned as a boy, Daniel Opulencia Mercado was no stranger to challenge. When he graduated Salutatorian in high school, he inspired his brothers and sisters to pool their resources to send him through Medicine at the University of the Philippines. He graduated in 1952 and immediately went to the United States for an Internship at the Baltimore Casualty Hospital. But he soon returned to Tanauan, eager to rediscover his roots and repay his blessings. In December 1957, he found the way he could give back to the community - Mercado Clinic, a 12-bed lying-in facility he would open with his wife Estela after being wed just a year. From its foundation, Dr. Mercado was committed to giving his patients the best possible service… winning so many over that his volume of patients outstripped the available space within a few years.

By 1968, the Mercado Clinic was already one of the top 3 hospitals in Tanauan, now with 11 rooms, and had to hire more people. The Mercado Clinic had made many friends for life in Tanauan. But it was about to grow into a full-fledged family. Maybe helping hands run in families. Dr. Mercado's sons and daughters followed him into the medical profession and before long, they were ready to take over clinical and administrative functions at the hospital.

In 1988, the nest grew… Dr. Mercado expanded his clinic into a general hospital - now with 25 beds and newer facilities and renamed it the Mercado General Hospital. He also began inviting other specialists in the fields of medicine and surgery to join the new hospital. With unflagging commitment, Dr. Mercado paved the way for more innovation in caring for his beloved community. By 1994, the hospital was computerized and by 1996, the Mercado General Hospital was a corporation, the first hospital in Tanauan to achieve this. As even more doctors were invited, the hospital expanded to welcome its growing number of patients as it added even more up-to-date facilities and services. Admission had increased to between 60 and 70 % annually while Mercado General Hospital became a 50-bed Secondary hospital with 12 doctor's clinic and full services: ultrasound, accounting, HMO, heart station, drug testing, pulmonary and dietary. A new ICU complex was added, along with physical rehabilitation equipment, endoscopy, CT-scan machines and a blood bank.

It was the year 2000. The world faced a new day and so did the Mercado General Hospital. There was the new Pediatric Intensive Unit… the new Industrial Unit for corporate clients… and of course, the new name: the Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center (DMMC), in honor of its founder. World-class was the word. The new DMMC was launched with the vision of becoming one of the best hospitals in the CALABARZON region, servicing a community that was also becoming more urbanized by the day, with emerging global needs.

Facade of the Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center

Now, a 100-bed full-service facility, the Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center is a tertiary hospital that aspires to rival key centers with state-of-the-art medical, surgical, diagnostic and therapeutic facilities.

On-call are nearly 100 well-trained doctors in 21 specialties, all dedicated professionals. DMMC always skews toward innovation, changing in response to the needs of the times.

In the immediate future, these changes will include: (1) creating a customer-centered culture to synergize the organization and its work processes; (2) institutionalizing Total Quality Management as a way of life to anticipate world-class certification; (3) expanding facilities and services to improve market competitiveness; (4) the introduction of specialty centers with special focus on wellness and lifestyle; (5) and the establishment of satellite health care facilities in potential expansion areas of the community.

Estela Mercado Medical Plaza

Neither will future generations forget. The DMMC Institute of Health Sciences is dedicated to carrying on Dr. Mercado's dream and passing the torch to young people who will bring hope to the future their own way. With 5 Baccalaureate programs in core fields - Nursing, Education, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Radiologic Technology - and additional courses in Caregiver and Biomedical Technology, it aims to become the school for allied health professions in CALABARZON.

The dream of one man … The desire to help … The drive to make a difference. It doesn't end here. This is just the beginning.

MISSION-VISION

- To be the leading provider of quality affordable healthcare to individuals and institutions in CALABARZON and exceed their rising expectations.
- To care for the needs of an increasingly demanding and sophisticated market through a corps of competent, empowered and compassionate healthcare professionals supported by state-of-the-art facilities, training and medical research programs and efficient and accurate processes.
- To deal with our employees, patients, doctors, suppliers and partners with dignity, utmost integrity, fairness, credibility and mutual respect and to fulfill our role as a good corporate citizen in the communities we serve.

QUALITY POLICY

Daniel O. Mercado Center is committed to consistently deliver expert medical care in a timely and accurate manner, thru a team of highly motivated healthcare professionals who are compassionate and caring. This will be supported by state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, clear and well-defined processes and excellent education and training programs.

The Management will adopt a culture that fosters integrity, sense of responsibility, and continuous improvement thru life-long learning, innovation and resourcefulness.

The Management is also committed to comply with established standards of PCAHO, DOH and PhilHealth. We are looking forward to be registered under ISO and JCAHO certification as part of our commitment to continually improve the effectiveness of our quality system.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

(Seated, L-R) Carina M. Baquizal, MD, Susan M. Lat, RN (Treasurer), Zosimo C. Malabanan (Chairman), Edwin M. Mercado, MD (President and Chief Executive Officer), Dennis M. Mercado, MD and Florencio C. Lat (Vice-Chairman)
(Standing L-R) Rommel A. Montes, MD, Carolita Q. Lat, MD, Edna H. Cuasay, MD, Teresita T. Hernandez, MD, Soledad V. Mercado, MBA, Menandro A. Villadelgado, MD (Secretary), Mary Ann A. Hidalgo, MD and Reden Alfonso M. Silva, MD (Not in photo: Edward V. A. Lim, MD)

SERVICES

MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING

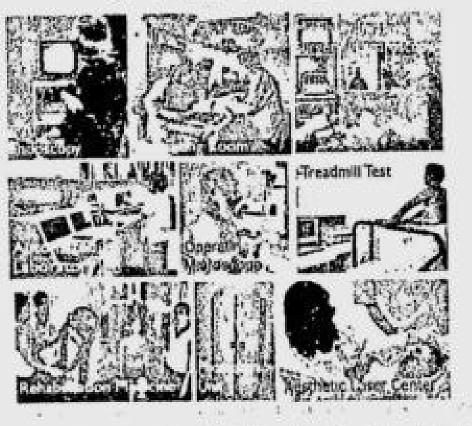
Dentistry
Dermatology
Family Medicine
Internal Medicine
Neurology
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ophthalmology
Orthopedics
Otorhinolaryngology
Pediatrics
Psychiatry
Surgery
Urology

AESTHETIC SURGICAL AND LASER CENTER

Cosmetic, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Hair Removal, Skin Rejuvenation and Tightening
Phototherapy Unit

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

Arterial Blood Gasses Determination
Audiometry
Automated Laboratory
Computed Tomography (CT) Scan
Duplex Scans
2D-Echocardiography and Doppler Studies
Electrocardiography
Mammography
Plain Radiology
Pulmonary Function Tests
Treadmill Exercise Test and Holter Monitoring
Ultrasonography
Video Endoscopy



REHABILITATION MEDICINE CLINIC

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Physical Therapy
Speech Therapy

CENTER FOR WELLNESS AND LIFESTYLE DISEASES

Executive Check-Up Packages
Diabetes and Endocrine Service
Hypertension and Dyslipidemia Service
Sports Medicine and Arthritis Service

INDUSTRIAL CLINIC

IN-PATIENT SERVICES

Blood Bank
Critical Care Units
- *Adult Intensive Care Unit*
- *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*
- *Pediatric Intensive Care Unit*

Dialysis Unit
Emergency Room
Nursery
Operating Room
- *Labor and Delivery Rooms*
- *Minimally Invasive Surgeries*
  - *Arthroscopy and Laparoscopy*

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS (1952-2007)

1952
Dr. Daniel O Mercado graduated from the UP College of Medicine

1967
- Mercado Clinic expanded into a 11-room facility with a new operating room and pharmacy
- Accredited as a secondary hospital by Medicare

1997
- Incorporated as Mercado General Hospital, Inc.
- Expansion into a 50-bed secondary hospital with a new annex building (Patient Rooms and Doctor's Clinic)
-Departmentalization of Medical Units

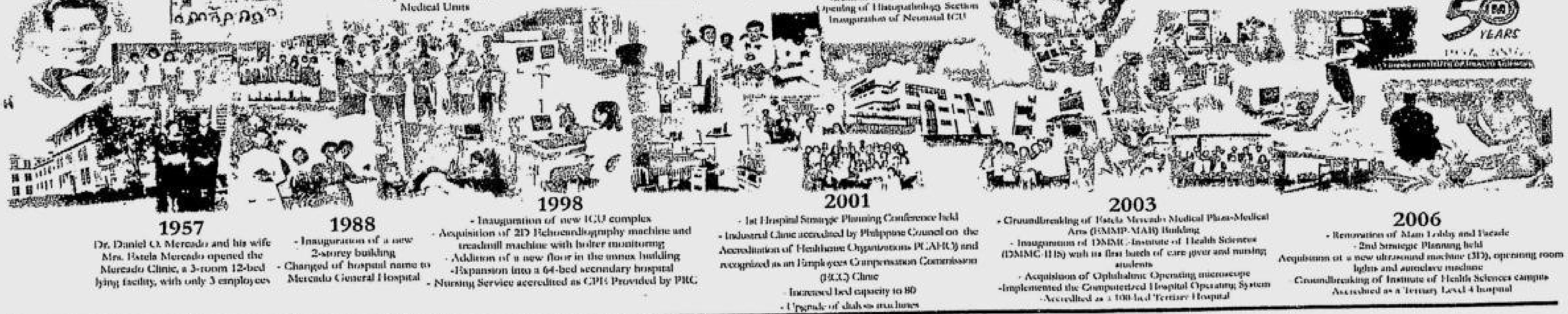
1999
Acquisition of Quantex CT Scan machine and ultrasound machine
- Upgrading of blood bank with new equipment
- Inauguration of Pediatric ICU
Dr. Daniel O. Mercado passed away

2000
- Change of hospital name to Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center (DMMC) in honor of its founder
- Inauguration of a 4-storey Central Block building
Implemented the Hospital Financial Management Systems
Creation of an Industrial Unit
Opening of Histopathology Section
Inauguration of Neonatal ICU

2004
- Inauguration of Estela Mercado Medical Plaza Medical Arts Building
Automation of laboratory services

2005
Upgrade of Video endoscopic machines (laparoscope, arthroscope, gastroscope, colonoscope, etc.)
- DMMC-IHS held its first capping ceremony for its 1st batch of nursing students

2007
- Accepted first batch of Emergency Medicine residents
Opening of Aesthetic Surgical and Laser Center
- Renovation of Emergency Room and Laboratory
DMMC-IHS graduated its first nursing batch
DMMC-IHS transferred to its new campus



1957
Dr. Daniel O. Mercado and his wife Mrs. Estela Mercado opened the Mercado Clinic, a 3-room 12-bed lying facility, with only 3 employees

1988
- Inauguration of a new 2-storey building
- Changed of hospital name to Mercado General Hospital

1998
- Inauguration of new ICU complex
- Acquisition of 2D Echocardiography machine and treadmill machine with holter monitoring
- Addition of a new floor in the annex building
-Expansion into a 64-bed secondary hospital
- Nursing Service accredited as CPE Provided by PRC

2001
- 1st Hospital Strategic Planning Conference held
- Industrial Clinic accredited by Philippine Council on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations PCAHO) and recognized as an Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) Clinic
- Increased bed capacity to 80
- Upgrade of dialysis machines

2003
- Groundbreaking of Estela Mercado Medical Plaza-Medical Arts (EMMP-MAB) Building
- Inauguration of DMMC-Institute of Health Sciences (DMMC-IHS) with its first batch of care giver and nursing students
- Acquisition of Ophthalmic Operating microscope
-Implemented the Computerized Hospital Operating System
-Accredited as a 100-bed Tertiary Hospital

2006
- Renovation of Main Lobby and Facade
- 2nd Strategic Planning held
Acquisition of a new ultrasound machine (3D), operating room lights and autoclave machine
Groundbreaking of Institute of Health Sciences campus
Accredited as a Tertiary Level 4 hospital

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Mayoral bet, cops tagged in school arson

By Alcuin Papa

A BATANGAS POLICE INVESTIGATOR HAS tagged a mayoral candidate and his supporters and 19 Calabarzon police officers in the burning of a school in Taysan, Batangas, during the counting of the votes on May 15 that resulted in the death of three people.

Supt. Elwin Fernandez of the Batangas Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), who filed a complaint affidavit before the Ombudsman on Thursday, said Calabarzon police had served as a "strike force" for reelectionist Taysan Mayor Hernando Villena in the elections.

Fernandez named Calabarzon police commander Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan; Superintendents Roger James Brilliantes, head of the Calabarzon regional special operations group (RSOG), and David Alluigan; Chief Ins. Jose Kabigting; Inspectors William Marinda and Marcelino Pipo; Senior Police Officers 2 William Relos, Geronimo Manalo and Ernesto Javelona; Senior Police Officers 1 Leo Morcilla, Danilo Sumpay, Rufo Carino, Eduardo Quinto and Luis Almarez; Police Officers 3 Rico Landicho, Jun Lucillo and Danilo de Belen; and Police Officers 2 Romeo Medalla and Jimmy Runcal.

Marinda and Relos have already been charged with murder.

Fernandez also asked the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the military and other law enforcement offices to place the 19 police officers under preventive suspension.

He also asked the agency to file administrative and criminal charges against them for grave misconduct, oppression, serious irregularity in the performance of their duties, and violation of Comelec regulations and the Omnibus Election Code.

In his affidavit, Fernandez said he concluded that the burning of the Pinagbayanan Elementary School "was orchestrated by some RSOG personnel and supporters of Mayor Hernando Villena and Mayor Hernando Villena himself."

Fernandez said there were earlier incidents in Taysan that "would clearly show that the RSOG, through the leadership of Supt. Roger James Brilliantes and with the consent of Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan, had served as the striking force of Mayor Hernando Villena in pursuing his candidacy for his mayoral post ..."

He did not enumerate what these incidents were in his affidavit but submitted a 52-page case folder.

Fernandez said the RSOG had not been assigned to perform any election-related duties. The presence of RSOG operatives in Taysan, Batangas, was never coordinated with local police, he said.

Though he said he had yet to read the Fernandez affidavit, Radovan said in a phone interview that what the investigator alleged were "not true."

Kabigting said he would face the charges squarely at the proper time.

Sandigan bars Estrada from Lim oath-taking

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY DENIED the request of ousted President Joseph Estrada to attend tomorrow's oath-taking of Manila Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim, who had credited his victory partly to the endorsement of the deposed leader.

A day before the rejection, however, Estrada filed another pleading, this time for permission to attend the oath-taking of his son, San Juan Mayor-elect JV Ejercito, also scheduled for tomorrow but four hours earlier than Lim's.

The antigraft court said Estrada's stated reasons for attending Lim's midday program at Liwasang Bonifacio "fall short of the humanitarian considerations that have impelled the court to grant (his) similar requests in the past."

Earlier, the public prosecutors in Estrada's P4-billion plunder trial had posed objections, saying he was just giving "lame excuses" to enjoy another break from detention at his Tanay, Rizal, estate.

They also said mobilizing police escorts for yet another furlough for Estrada would entail having to spend more public funds.

Estrada cited an invitation from Lim, the interior secretary in his administration and a loyal political ally with whom he shared "warm personal sentiments," in his request.

He also said Lim was just acknowledging a debt of gratitude to him and "our people would appreciate seeing us together" at the oath-taking. *Volt Contreras*

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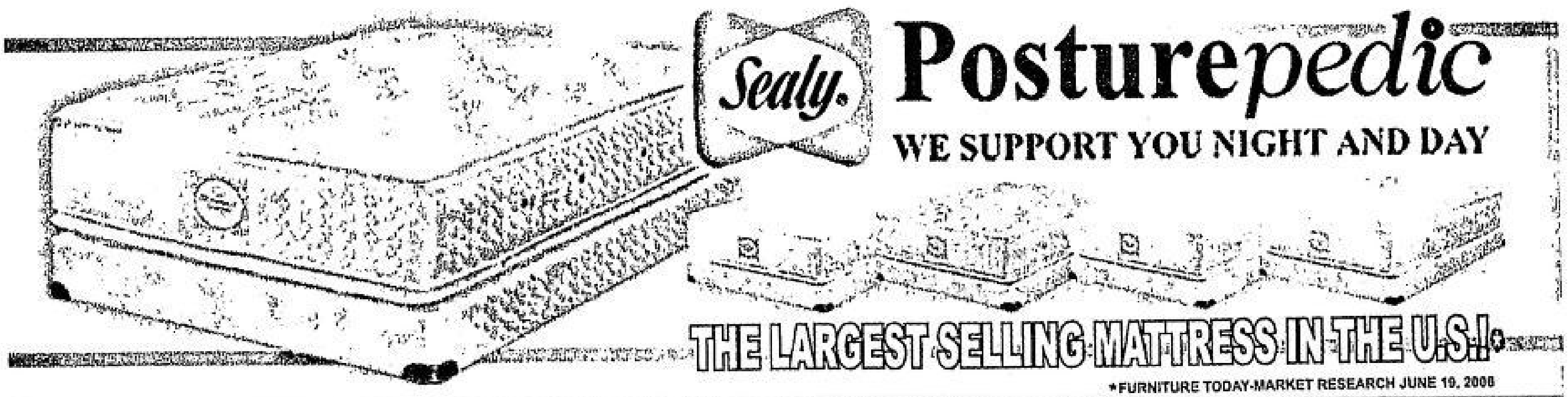

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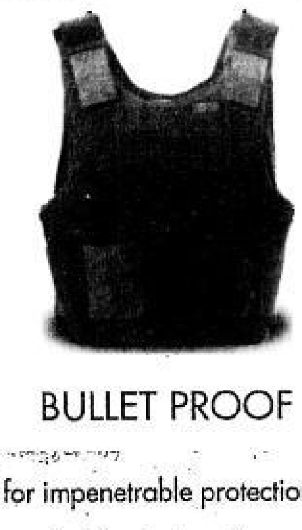
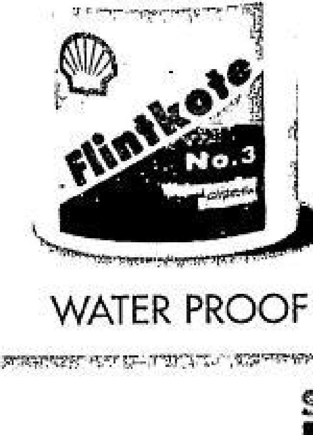


BULLET PROOF



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Terror suspect in Jolo, says military

MILITARY OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY THEY believed a top Indonesian terror suspect was still hiding on Jolo island, amid reports he had slipped out to escape a US-backed manhunt.

Army Brig. Gen. Ruperto Pabustan, who heads an antiterrorism force on Jolo, said Dulmatin, who goes by one name, was still on the island, based on the latest information. A military intelligence officer had earlier said he might have fled to neighboring Malaysia.

"We still believe he cannot turn his back on Umar Patek, who we believe is also still here," Pabustan said.

Dulmatin and Umar Patek, another suspected terrorist from the Indonesia-based group Jemaah Islamiyah, are believed to have fled to Mindanao in 2003 to escape a massive Indonesian manhunt after they were implicated in the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people.

They had been together since the 1990s in the eastern Indonesian city of Ambon, where Muslims and Christians fought bloody battles, according to an intelligence report.

Washington has offered a $10-million reward for the capture or killing of Dulmatin, an expert bomb-maker who has been identified by his wife as Ammar Usman from Indonesia's Petarukan region.

A military intelligence officer said Dulmatin appeared to have fled in recent weeks to Malaysia, citing military tracking of his communications.

A police intelligence officer said Dulmatin had slipped out of Jolo but might still be in Mindanao, assessing whether it would be safe for him to return to Indonesia, where a recent crackdown led to the fall of Jemaah Islamiyah's top two leaders.

Dulmatin was last sighted on May 10 on Simunol island, in Tawi-Tawi near Jolo, where government troops found his four children but failed to capture him after he apparently got wind of the pre-dawn raid.

The children told authorities they were with their father hours before the raid, according to the military intelligence officer.

On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government had chosen a retired Army general as the chief government negotiator in talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest Muslim rebel group.

Ermita said the MILF, which was negotiating to end nearly 40 years of rebellion in the south, had also welcomed the appointment of retired Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia.

"General Garcia has the approval of the President to be the one to take over as chairman of the negotiating panel," Ermita told a press briefing, adding that President Macapagal-Arroyo would sign the ex-officer's appointment as soon as she returned from abroad.

Ermita said Garcia was also endorsed by Silvestre Afable, the chief negotiator who resigned two weeks ago, and Jesus Dureza, the President's peace adviser.

Garcia, 58, is not a stranger to the peace process because he has been a member of the government's negotiating panel since July 2004 when he retired from military service.

The former vice commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines also headed the government's truce panel, which monitors a ceasefire with the MILF, for almost a year until his retirement.

"Personally, he's okay," said Von al Haq, head of the MILF's ceasefire panel. "He has vast knowledge and understanding of the problems in Mindanao. I believe he's solution-oriented."

GARCIA JOAN BONDOC

Muslim religious leaders hit harassment, seek dialogue

ZAMBOANGA CITY—MUSLIM RELIGIOUS leaders in Mindanao have complained of being labeled as fundamentalists by the military and being made the targets and victims of "wrongful" military action.

During a meeting with police and military officials here on June 19, the Muslim leaders—consisting of ulama (preachers), ustadz (teachers of Arabic) and imam (clerics)—said they were being targeted under the government's campaign against extremists and terrorists.

"There might be some members of the Muslim religious leaders that committed crimes but the military and police must not label all of us fundamentalists, extremists and, worst, terrorists," said Ustadz Esmail Ebrahim, executive officer of the Assembly of Darul Ifta in the Philippines.

Ustadz Abdulgani Alawi of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, yesterday said the dialogue with top military and police officials was meant to emphasize "that we are for [a] dialogue for peace."

"They can rely on our help in combatting terrorism because in Islam, terrorism is not tolerated," he said.

Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, commander of the military's Western Mindanao Command, and Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal of the Western Mindanao police, were told about military raids on houses of Muslim religious leaders.

The Muslim leaders also cited the case of Ustadz Anwar Adjuli Saddae, a principal of the Abubakar Computer Learning Center Foundation in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, who died while in the custody of the Navy.

Saddae was taken into custody in May on suspicion of being an Abu Sayyaf member.

Signs of torture

Jose Manuel Mamauag, human rights director for Western Mindanao, earlier said there were indications that Saddae had been tortured. He said the Commission on Human Rights had yet to complete its investigation into the death of Saddae. He said Saddae was not an Abu Sayyaf member.

Alawi said they cited the June 1 raid by military agents on the house of Ustadz Abubabakar Wahid in Barangay Malagutay here.

Maj. Eugene Batara, Westmincom spokesperson, confirmed the raid on Wahid's home. But he said it was backed by a search warrant and that Wahid was suspected of coddling terrorists.

Ebrahim said Muslim religious leaders had been working with the government for peace.

"We are allies and partners to peace and development and what they [military] are doing is unjust," Ebrahim said.

Batara said the military was not targeting Muslim religious leaders.

"We don't generalize, but it is also sad that there are other members implicated and identified as committing unlawful acts or coddling wanted persons," he said.

But Ebrahim said this suspicion, especially on the case of Wahid, had been proven wrong.

He said they wanted the military to apologize for the incident.

A human rights activist in Jolo said the military's tendency to link religious leaders to terrorism was proven yet again when it came out with a leaflet bearing the face of the supposed new Abu Sayyaf leader.

Abu's new leader

Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino recently announced that Ali Igasan, alias Abdulla Tuan Ya Yasir Igasan, an alleged Syrian-trained Sulu-based terrorist, was the new leader of the extremist group.

But according to Tulawie, who is a Jolo councilor, the photo that the military used in the handbook was not that of Igasan but belonged to Ustadz Abdulla Yahiya, a Sulu religious leader.

Sheik Abdulwakil Istanjilil, secretary of the Darul Ifta in Western Mindanao, said Yahiya is a respected member of their group and putting his face in a leaflet aimed at combating terror had put him in danger.

"He is not an Abu Sayyaf member or leader or even spiritual adviser to the group. In fact, Ustadz Yahiya was one of those who wanted to become chaplain at [the Westmincom]," he said.

Batara declined to comment on the snafu.

"This should serve as lesson and hopefully this will be the last error," said Fatima Rasul of the Kasanyangan Foundation. *Julie Alipala,*

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Enron prosecutor addresses RP counterparts on corruption

By Volt Contreras

ONE OF THE US FEDERAL PROSECUTORS involved in the landmark Enron case is in Manila for a week-long series of lectures on the handling of big complex corruption cases at the invitation of the Ombudsman.

Cliff Stricklin, a former Dallas judge and current First Assistant Attorney for the District of Colorado, has delivered talks at the Department of Justice and the Office of the Special Prosecutor at the Sandiganbayan.

At a luncheon given for him at the Holiday Inn Galleria at the Ortigas Center yesterday, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said Stricklin was not consulted on any particular Philippine case.

He will meet again today with Filipino special prosecutors at the Sandiganbayan antigraft court before leaving the country tomorrow.

At the luncheon, Stricklin related how several Enron executives-turned-state witness confessed to having played a role or turned a blind eye to the systematic accounting fraud that brought down the Houston-based energy firm in 2001.

He said the executives mostly started out living modest lifestyles, were "corrupted along the way," then hesitated to blow the whistle on their superiors lest they lose their jobs or their promotions.

Dwelling less on the legalese and more on the morality of the Enron case, Stricklin recalled how the executives became repentant in public, one of them even conceding that he would be written about in "history books as a thief."

"As citizens of the Philippines, you are shareholders of the country—whether you are in government or (not). We have a choice whether or not our government or our companies continue to hurt people," he said.

Greed, he said, consumes a person when money ceases to be a mere means of acquiring material possessions but becomes "a measuring stick of success."

Stricklin was one of the four attorneys who presented evidence in the fraud and conspiracy trial against former top Enron executives Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling.

At the end of 2001, it came out that Enron's reported financial viability was sustained mainly through institutionalized, systematic and creative accounting.

The company has since become the popular symbol of willful corporate fraud and corruption.

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Osmeña: Onerous deals due to lack of punishment

THE FAILURE TO PUNISH UNSCRUPULOUS government officials who enter into contracts for ill-conceived projects is the reason bad deals continue to plague the country, according to Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

Osmeña said these allegedly one-sided contracts, like the controversial P330-million broadband deal with the Chinese-based ZTE Corp., proliferate because "they know they can get away with it."

Noting that the Senate can only investigate in aid of legislation, he said it was up to the proper authorities to go after the officials who draft the questionable deals.

"ZTE is no different from Fraport [the German partner in the botched Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 deal], they know how to operate in Third World countries like the Philippines," said Osmeña.

He said ZTE and Fraport left a wake of disreputable contracts in other countries that government officials had obviously glossed over when they signed the contracts with the two companies.

While the Supreme Court has rescinded the Naia 3 contract of Fraport and its local partner, Philippine International Air Terminals Corp., Osmeña said no government official who had a hand in approving the deal that spanned three administrations has gone to jail.

Critics of the ZTE deal questioned why the government accepted its $330-million offer when a local firm, Amsterdam Holdings, had offered to build a similar national broadband network for $242 million and a US company, Arescom Inc., had bid $135 million for the project.

"As long as we don't put government officials responsible for theses type of deals in jail, they will continue to craft these kinds of contracts," said Osmeña. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 29, 2007
Peter and Paul, Apostles

1st Reading:	Acts 12:1-1
2nd Reading:	2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18
Gospel:	Matthew 16:13-19

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, "What do people say of the Son of Man? Who do they say I am?" They said, "For some of them you are John the Baptist, for others Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Barjona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

"And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church; and never will the powers of death overcome it.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and what you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Commentary

Peter is detained in prison after the murder of James and he now experiences persecution. The church prays for him and he is released mysteriously by the power of an angel saying, "Put on your belt and your sandals, and your cloak and follow me" (see John 21). Peter will survive this time but one day he will be led to the cross. And Paul is in prison, writing to Timothy, waiting to die and speaking of what he has done by preaching to the nations. He is relying on God to bring him to the end.

Jesus demands that his disciples tell him who they think he is—others think he is a prophet (true enough—do we see Jesus as a prophet?) but he wants to push them further. It is Peter who answers that he is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God—knowledge that has been given to him by the Father, though it will take years and the experience of Jesus' death to give him understanding of what those words mean. Peter is bound to the foundation of the church with the promise that nothing will stand against it for Jesus will be with them, to forgive and to hold bound those who do evil. These first leaders were human and sinful as we are—yet we need to call our leaders today to the cross and to the preaching of the gospel, and hold those who do evil bound for their words/works.

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Ombudsman orders graft raps vs ex-PNP school head

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE OMBUDSMAN HAS RECOMMENDED the filing of graft charges in the Sandiganbayan against a former director of the Philippine National Police Academy for the alleged overprice of a training facility in Tawi-Tawi six years ago.

The Ombudsman found probable cause in the complaint filed by the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) in 2005 against Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma for the alleged misuse of P5.7 million allocated for the construction of an administration building, a barracks and a classroom on a 1.2-ha piece of land in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

Investigation conducted by the school reportedly showed that only P3.1 million of the fund, which came from its 1998 capital outlay, was spent for the project.

Site cost less

In a memorandum to then PPSC president Chief Supt. Ramsey Ocampo, Coloma had allegedly claimed the site had been fully developed and the construction of the administration building was 90-percent complete while that of the 50-bed barracks and classroom had started.

But later inspection of the project site revealed that only the administration building and one classroom had been completed, the cost of which was pegged at only P3.18 million.

It also found that the site, which the PPSC had bought from private contractor AC Lim Construction for P1.5 million, actually cost less and that it had been mortgaged to the Development Bank of the Philippines for P1,200.

The highest market value for first-class property in Tawi-Tawi at the time reportedly was only P9,730 per hectare, thus, the site should have only cost P11,676.

No public bidding

The complaint also alleged that no public bidding was held for the supply of construction materials and labor but the contracts for these were awarded to AC Lim Construction and New Alems Enterprises.

The investigation also showed that AC Lim Construction owners Rolando and Albia Lim and Coloma opened a joint account at the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in Tawi-Tawi into which the latter deposited P1.6 million as payment to the Lims for labor services rendered.

Another joint account in the name of Coloma and New Alems Enterprises owner Albert Tan was also later discovered.

Supplemental complaints

The Ombudsman also recommended the filing of supplemental complaints against the Lim couple and Tan for allegedly conspiring with Coloma to cause undue injury to the school and the government.

The Ombudsman, meanwhile, yesterday ordered the dismissal of two Bureau of Internal Revenue officers for grave misconduct and dishonesty and recommended the filing of estafa charges against another.

Ordered dismissed were Virgilio Quileste, revenue collection officer in Surigao del Norte, and Nilo Maton, BIR computer operator II in Davao City.

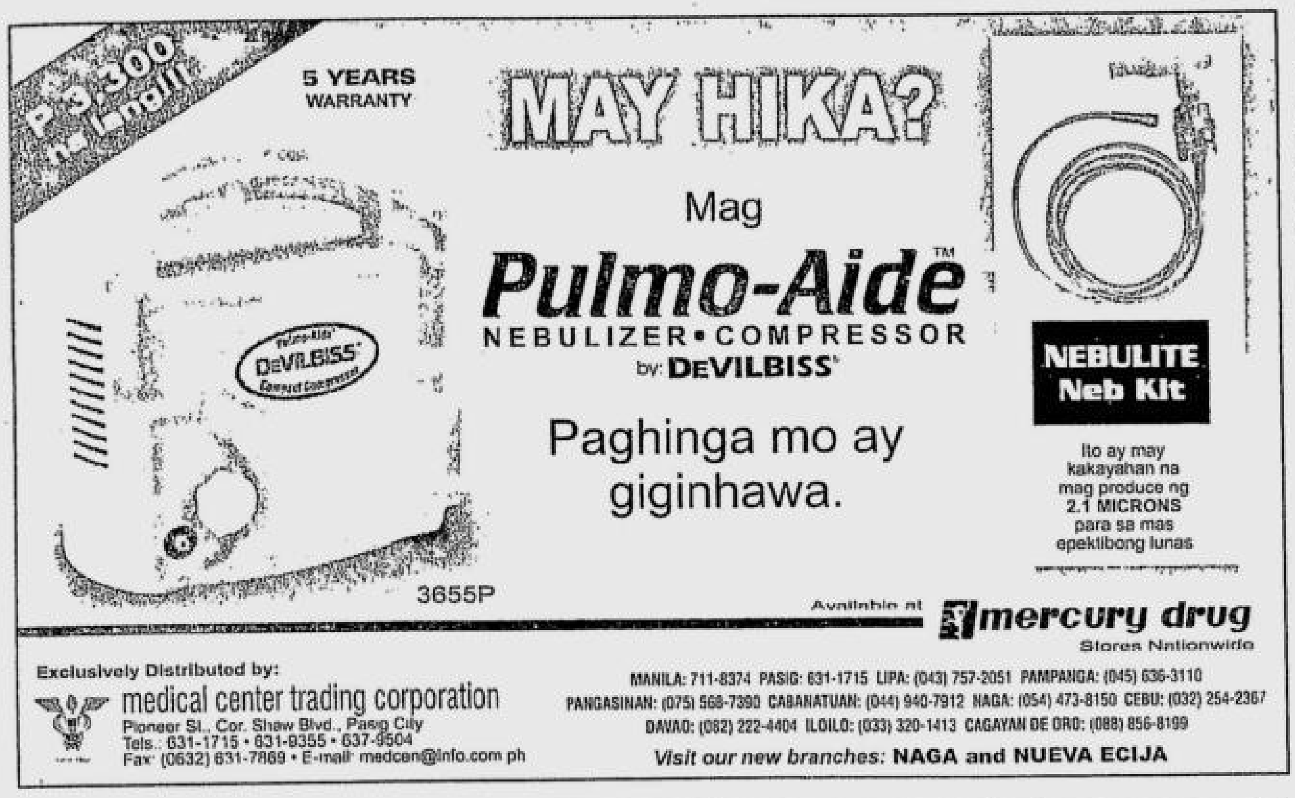
Dina Neri, revenue officer in Cebu City, was accused of estafa and falsification of public documents after allegedly defrauding private citizen Luis Mendezona of more than P200,000 in the processing of the transfer of properties to his children.

Guilty of extortion

Quileste was found by the Commission on Audit to have failed to remit more than P265,000 in June 2002.

In December 2002, Quileste informed the COA he had remitted the amount of his shortage, but the Ombudsman ruled that "restitution does not obliterate liability nor could we consider the same as mitigating circumstance."

Maton was found guilty of extorting P20,000 from a Lydia Palanca to process the transfer of a land title in Davao City and as payment of capital gains tax.



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ZTE's Statement on Philippine NBN Project

ZTE Corporation recently inked a deal with the Philippine government for a National Broadband Network (NBN) project, which aims to narrow the development gap between the rich and the poor by setting up an integrated nationwide communications network that interconnects all state agencies and units from the national to the "Barangay" levels. The NBN will establish and ensure connectivity and access to deliver e-government and other services for the entire country, especially those in the unserved and underserved rural areas.

From the outset, the NBN project has drawn much attention and interest from various sectors and the media. Unfortunately, some of the media reports have contained inaccurate, misleading, and untrue statements which have not only unfairly portrayed the NBN project but seriously undermined ZTE's reputation as well. As a prestigious listed corporation in China with projects and dealings all over the world, ZTE has earned respect from and a fine reputation in the international telecommunications industry. ZTE is therefore compelled to state the following:

1. As a listed company in the Hong Kong and Shenzhen Stock Exchanges, ZTE adheres to the philosophy of trust, diligence, and technical innovation. As a result of its constant and continuing R&D and quality products and service, ZTE has become one of the leading telecom equipment suppliers in the global market. ZTE has over 14,000 employees involved in R&D alone. Today, ZTE supplies its products and services to over 500 operators in more than 100 countries, including the world's top-class operators such as Vodafone, France Telecom, Telefonica, Telstra, China Telecom, and China Mobile, among many others.

2. It was because of ZTE's reputation, high qualifications, cutting-edge technical capability, and cost-effective solutions that it was chosen to undertake the NBN project by the Philippine government. As with its ZTE's many projects in other countries, the NBN project was executed, and will be undertaken in full compliance with local and Chinese laws and regulations.

ZTE is grateful for this opportunity to undertake such an important project and participate in helping promote Philippine progress. It urges the media and the public to ensure and observe accuracy and fairness in their reports and discussions, and to support the NBN project and its laudable goals.

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ZTE Corporation
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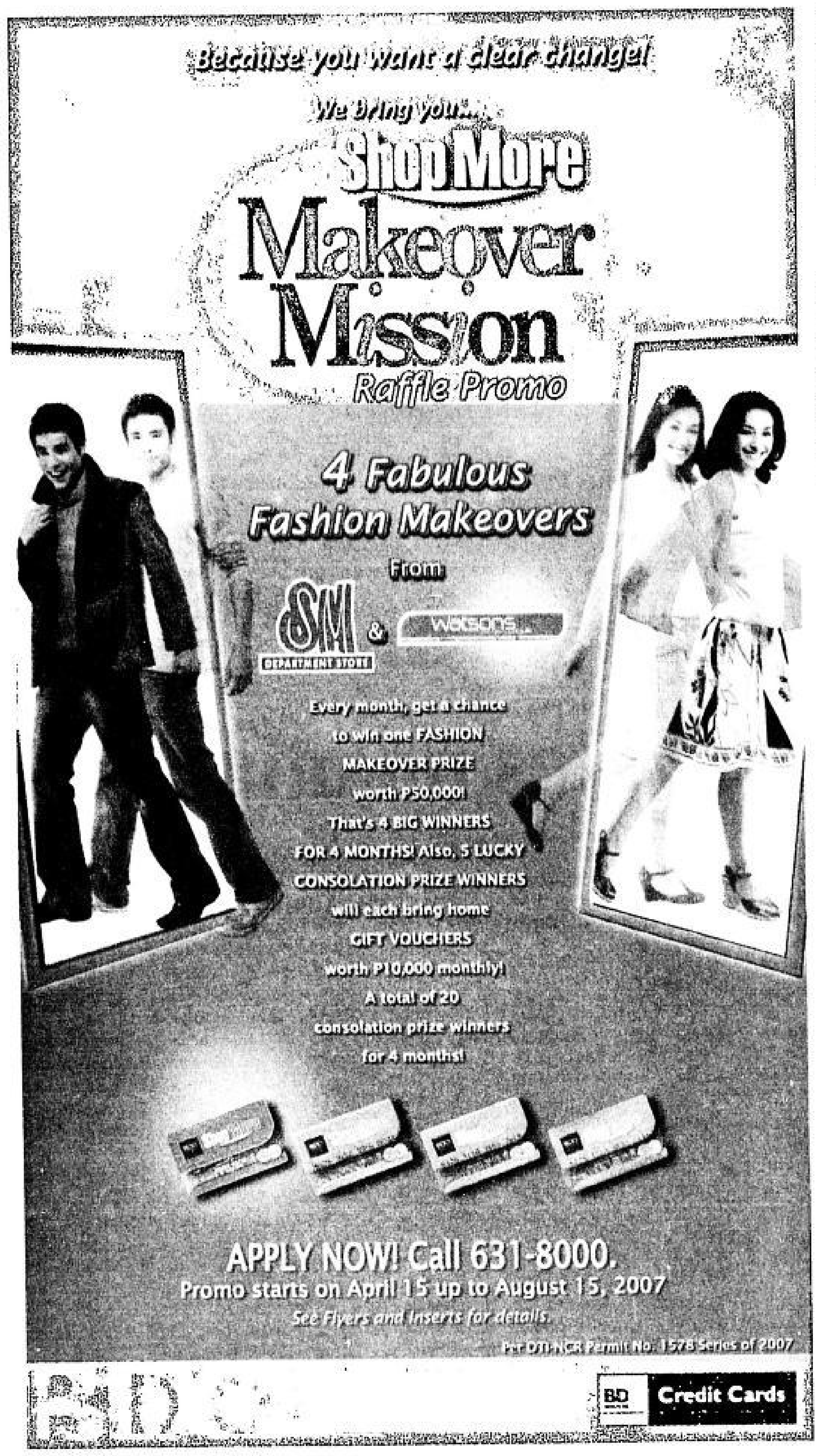

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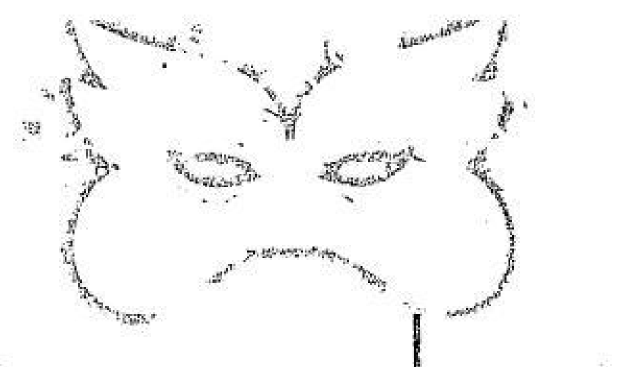

Insular Life's Sales Awards Night.

Excellence Unmasked was a tribute to the members of Insular Life's agency force who performed excellently in sales and service in 2006. Held on April 8, 2007 at The Grand Ballroom of Hotel InterContinental Manila, the event theme played on the many facets of excellence that proved the Filipino's capability to be world-class sales professionals. Insular Life Chairman and CEO Vicente R. Aylion, President and COO Mayo Jose B. Ongsingco, and Senior Vice President and Head of Sales Marietta C. Gorrez paid tribute to the outstanding performers on this very special occasion.

INSULAR LIFE

Insular Life Chairman of the Board and CEO Vicente R. Aylion

The faces of sales excellence. The 2006 Presidential and Divisional Honorees and Special Achievement Awardees pose with Chairman and CEO Vicente R. Aylion, President and COO Mayo Jose B. Ongsingco, Sales Operations Head Marietta C. Gorrez (front row: 4th, 2nd & 5th from left, respectively).

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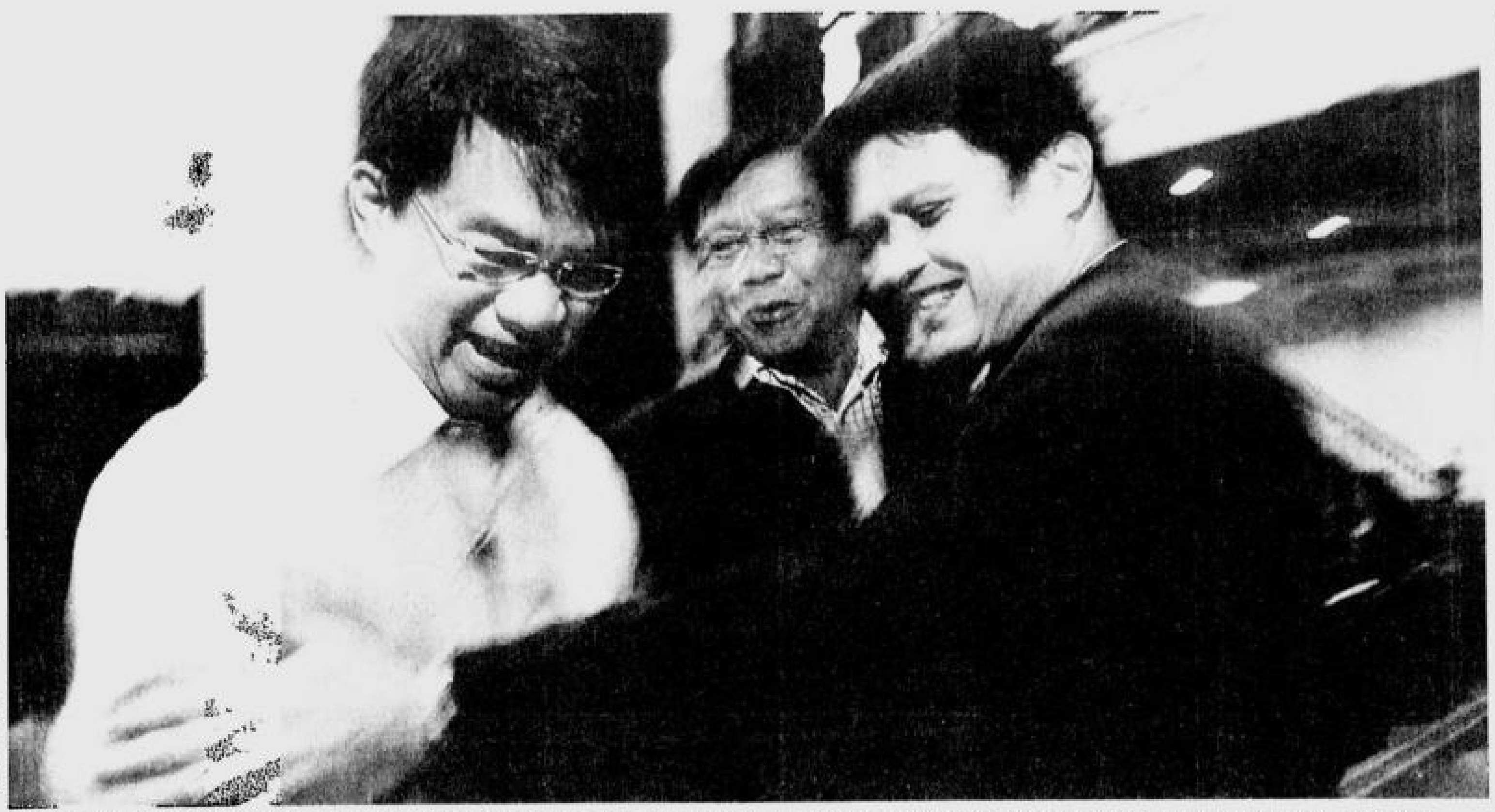
The faces of dedication and loyalty: Agency Service Awardees led by 40-year awardee Augustin S.Y. Sheng and 35-year awardee Remedios O. Viloria



NO ARGUMENTS HERE. Rivals for the 12th Senate slot, Pimentel and Zubiri wish each other luck, or so it seems, when they meet at the Supreme Court to hear oral arguments from both sides.

REM ZAMORA

Abalos: Bedol to surrender today

By Jerome Aning

COMELEC CHAIR BENJAMIN Abalos Sr. last night said controversial Maguindanao provincial elections supervisor Lintang Bedol will surrender this afternoon.

Bedol, who had been ordered arrested by the Comelec for contempt, called Abalos' office yesterday morning saying he wanted to "come over" when he learned about the impending issuance of an arrest warrant.

Abalos said he would be attending the oath-taking of his son Ben-hur as reelected mayor of Mandaluyong City, so he asked Bedol to show up in the afternoon.

The chair said the arrest warrant for Bedol would be issued by the Comelec law department and Bedol would be taking a morning flight so it was possible the police might apprehend Bedol before he gets to the Comelec office in Manila.

"If that happens, well, then he's unlucky. He may be brought to the city jail but it's better he'd be brought here before anywhere else," he said.

Abalos said Bedol would still have to face the various charges, such as infidelity in the custody of public documents, as well as administrative charges for other offenses such as disobeying the order of the NBC to show up and explain alleged irregularities in Maguindanao.

SC junks Koko petition; court votes unanimous

From page A1

senatorial results from Sumisip and five precincts in Akbar, both in Basilan, and 60 clustered precincts from Marawi City and eight towns in Lanao del Sur.

Last night's canvassed votes gave Pimentel a lead of 8,829 over Zubiri. Pimentel received 44,563 votes while Zubiri got 27,147.

Including the unofficial results from Maguindanao—where Zubiri got 195,823 votes and Pimentel 67,111—would give Pimentel a mere 4,293 lead.

Also last night, the Special Provincial Board of Canvassers for Shariff Kabunsuan convened to canvass the results from 10 precincts in the capital Kabuntalan and all the precincts in the town of Barira. The results will be forwarded to the NBC when it resumes its session at 2 p.m. today.

Results from Barira—with 8,204 actual voters—gave Pimentel 1,027 votes and Zubiri 3,293—a difference of 2,266 votes. The 10 remaining precincts from Maguindanao remained uncanvassed as of press time.

Including the Barira and Maguindanao unofficial results, Pimentel would only have a 2,266 lead over Zubiri.

'Tainted with fraud'

Pimentel hastily left the courtroom after adjournment of the oral arguments.

He wanted the Maguindanao votes set aside because these were allegedly tainted with fraud and to be proclaimed the winner based only on results from the rest of the country.

Nineteen senatorial candidates got zero votes in Maguindanao where the TU scored a 12-0 victory over the opposition.

Hours before the Supreme Court junked Pimentel's petition, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the poll body had no choice but to tally the Maguindanao provincial CoC unless stopped by the high court.

"If tonight there's no TRO, what can we do? We have to beat the June 30 deadline. If they don't issue a TRO today, there's no basis to stop the canvassing," Abalos told reporters in an ambush interview at around 3 p.m.

He said the 12th winning senatorial candidate and the winning party-list groups could be proclaimed today if the canvass of the remaining results was finished last night.

No specific grounds

The justices did not mention any specific grounds in junking Pimentel's petition. "They just told me they had voted unanimously. No TRO," Marquez said.

Twelve justices presided over the oral arguments yesterday, which began at 2:30 p.m.

Looking for Audrey

The high court, however, ordered all parties to submit their memoranda within 10 days for the main case.

Zubiri's initial reaction was to look for his wife when told about the tribunal's decision. "Where's my wife? Where's my wife?" Zubiri said when sought for comment by reporters.

After a smiling Audrey joined her husband, Zubiri thanked the high court for its decision.

While Zubiri rejoiced, Pimentel was "physically exhausted and emotionally drained" after being interpellated for two and a half hours by the justices.

Fight not over

Pimentel, a bar topnotcher, presented his own arguments.

But he said the high court's decision in no way indicated that the fight was over.

"For the next 10 days, we would be concentrating on the National Board of Canvassers where we will fight the inclusion of the provincial certificates of canvass," he said.

He also said the June 30 expiration of the previous senators' terms should not be taken as a binding deadline before which a 12th senator must be proclaimed.

"The Comelec should preserve the integrity of the votes," he said.

Team Unity lawyer Romulo Macalintal, for his part, said the high court's decision meant that Maguindanao voters would not be disenfranchised.

"The question is what would happen to the votes of Maguindanao? I think that was not properly answered by the other party," Macalintal said.

Go to SET

In the oral arguments, Justice Cancio Garcia questioned Pimentel's seeking to stop the canvassing of Maguindanao's Senate tally and said the Comelec should be "commended" for trying to look for ways to save the votes from the province.

The Comelec earlier excluded Maguindanao's provincial CoC from its Senate tally because the entries showed a statistical improbability.

The poll body initially attempted to declare a failure of elections there, but later decided to look for other election documents that would show the results of the Senate race.

Garcia said there were other remedies that Pimentel could take, like going to the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET).

Garcia said it might be better to include the Maguindanao votes in the Senate tally to give the Maguindanao voters the chance to be counted, and if there were questions about this, then the matter could be brought to the SET.

"Why not allow the Comelec to include the votes? If somebody wants to question it, let him question it before the Senate Electoral Tribunal. But at this time, you respect the right to suffrage," Garcia said during oral arguments.

He pointed out that issuing a TRO would lead to the exclusion of the Maguindanao votes from the Senate count and, in effect, it would be as if the voters did not participate in the May 14 elections.

Show proof

Garcia said Pimentel had no concrete proof that the Maguindanao election documents were irregular.

He pointed out that the senatorial candidate was only questioning the procedures that led to the gathering of the documents, and was only assuming the documents were tainted with fraud.

"On mere assumption, we are disenfranchising voters from 22 municipalities," Garcia said.

For his part, Justice Adolf Azcuna said that if the Comelec were faced by an unprecedented situation like the absence of other election documents to support the provincial certificates of canvass, then it could also take similarly unusual actions.

Azcuna said the usual rules the Comelec followed did not apply because what it faced was an unusual situation, and it had to take "creative solutions."

"You're blaming the Comelec for taking an unprecedented action for an unprecedented situation," he told Pimentel.

Duplicate copies

Justice Antonio Carpio also said Pimentel should have pushed for the counting of election returns instead of seeking the exclusion of certificates of canvass.

Pimentel said he was questioning the manner by which the election documents canvassed were gathered, the custody chain and the documents' integrity.

He pointed out that the documents had no duplicate copies that could be used should the figures be contested.

He added that canvassing rules should be followed because these provided a lot of safeguards for the documents.

"The circumstances convince me these are manufactured or at least untrustworthy," Pimentel said.

Comelec violates own rules

"The remedy I'm asking for is for the prohibition of the canvassing of election results from Maguindanao generated by an unprecedented process. I'm not saying I'm the winner," he added.

The Comelec, according to Pimentel, had no authority to violate its own rules that provide for proper procedures in case a provincial CoC is excluded, as happened in Maguindanao.

He also said that by going to Maguindanao to get new election documents, the poll body in effect produced a seemingly untainted provincial certificate of canvass based on questionable documents.

"The generation of a clean provincial certificate of canvass for Maguindanao was akin to money-laundering," he said.

As to voter disenfranchisement, Pimentel said the voters' voice was heard when it came to voting for candidates seeking local posts and seats in the House of Representatives.

"They would only be disenfranchised if the people who they voted for did not serve," he added.

He also said pushing through with the counting of Maguindanao Senate votes based on questionable documents could be worse.

"It would be more dangerous to force a generation of election results from Maguindanao by using these certificates of canvass," he said.

Cleanest count

He also said the voters were entitled to the "cleanest count as can be provided by Comelec."

Pimentel also said going to the SET was a remedy only if the proclamation of a senator had been done. But since the canvassing was ongoing, he went to the high court.

GO lawyers appeared dejected but undaunted.

Sixto Brillantes and Leila de Lima said they would take the battle to the NBC and continue to fight to exclude the Maguindanao votes from the Senate tally.

"The fight has just begun," Brillantes said.

De Lima, for her part, said she had been hoping for a TRO. But because the plea was denied, she said there were still actions they could pursue at the Comelec.

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Davao City Mayor Duterte wants 'askal' trained as bomb sniffers

From page A1

ties on his Sunday television program over ABS-CBN here after an official of the Mindanao Economic Development Council said that security agencies were seeking the use of mongrels in bomb detection.

The *askal* is not to be underestimated, Duterte said. Like Labradors, German shepherds and other imported breeds, they, too, could be trained as bomb sniffers, he said.

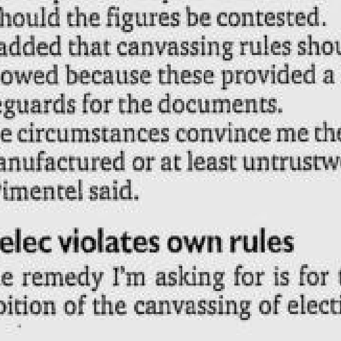
And using the locals could also help authorities save on cost, the mayor said.

In Thailand, a program was initiated by King Bhumibol Adulyadej to turn strays into police dogs, according to the Bangkok Post. Two such dogs, Mok and Lai, were cited for sniffing out drugs at Chiang Rai Airport near the Thai border with Laos and Burma (Myanmar) but had to be fired for urinating on luggage and sexually harassing female passengers.

Security measure

Duterte said the city government was spending a huge amount of money on canines used by the city police and the military.

"We bought these in millions," he said of the pure breed dogs, which are currently being used by authorities to enforce security measures.



DUTERTE

The deployment of bomb-sniffing dogs in public places, in addition to soldiers and policemen, was done after a spate of bombings hit the city in 2003.

Two weeks ago, a bomb went off inside a bus in Bansalan, Davao del Sur, killing eight people and wounding 18 others. Senior Supt. Andres Caro, Southern Mindanao police director, said the bomb contained TNT.

"If the PNP (Philippine National Police) and the military can perfect the training (for bomb-sniffing dogs), then whatever dog (there is), it can be used (for the purpose)," Duterte said.

No leftovers for imported dogs

In stressing his suggestion, the mayor said that aside from the expensive tag price, imported canines were fed expensive food.

A handler of one of the imported bomb-sniffing dogs admitted that they only ate especially manufactured food.

S/Sgt. Arnold Fermil, who handles Denver, a canine assigned with the Task Force Davao, said "native dogs are content with leftovers" unlike the imported ones.

The imported dogs also have short working hours, he said.

"(Bomb-sniffing) dogs are not to be exhausted in work and should only be used for at least three hours in one assignment," Fermil said.

In contrast, Duterte said, the *askal* could perform the task for longer hours. *With reports from Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao, and Reuters*

Gov't bucks Pasay court's choice of Naia 3 appraiser

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday questioned a Pasay City court's designation of a Makati appraisal firm to undertake the valuation of the mothballed Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In an omnibus motion, Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera sought the recall of the appointment of DG Jones & Partners, saying there was no legal basis for the appointment as only an implementing agency, not the Pasay court, can "engage the services of private appraisers."

"The rules on expropriation do not confer the authority on the expropriation court or the commissioners to hire appraisers," said the motion filed by the Office of the Solicitor General.

Pasay Judge Jesus Mupas appointed DG Jones as the appraiser that would help the court determine how much to compensate Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), the consortium that built the facility and which has been locked in an ownership dispute with the government over Naia 3 the past three years.

Short list

The judge chose from a short list of five appraisal firms submitted by Fiorello Estuar, chair of the Naia 3 Commission.

In 2004, the government applied with the Pasay court to expropriate the facility after the Supreme Court nullified the Piatco Naia 3 contract for having been obtained through fraud and corruption and for being disadvantageous to the government.

But the high tribunal ordered the government to pay Piatco $62.3 million (about P3 billion) as partial payment for the facility.

Agreement

The government and Piatco eventually agreed to get a third-party assessor to determine not only how much the consortium should be reimbursed, but to assess whether Naia 3 was built according to specifications.

However, the government maintained that neither the Pasay court nor the members of the Naia 3 Commission were authorized to appoint an appraiser.

The government had previously engaged the services of Gleeds, Ove Arup and Gensler, to help in the valuation of Naia 3 before the Pasay court appointed DG Jones.

Two appraisers

"The functions of such appraiser would be similar to, and be a duplication of, the efforts of the plaintiff's existing team of appraisers. The government would be obliged to pay for two appraisers," the omnibus motion pointed out.

Gleeds, Ove Arup and Gensler was also included in the court's short list but was taken out of consideration as it had acted as expert consultants to Naia in the past. But the government vouched for the firm's independence.

In the motion filed yesterday, the government asked the court to appoint Gleeds, Ove Arup, and Genser as the appraiser, saying the Naia 3 commission itself judged it to be the most qualified of the appraisers that were considered.

It also questioned the court's order for the government to shoulder the appraisal fee of DG Jones, amounting to $1.9 million, or roughly P100 million, which it considered "clearly exorbitant, excessive and unjust."

"It is utterly unjust to make the government exclusively pay for the services of an appraiser it did not nominate, and the expertise of which it is uncertain," it said.

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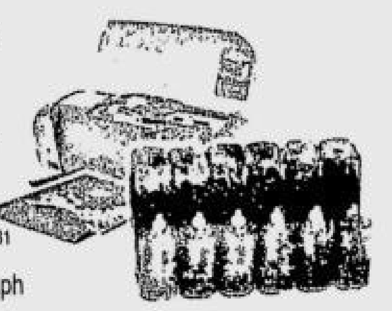
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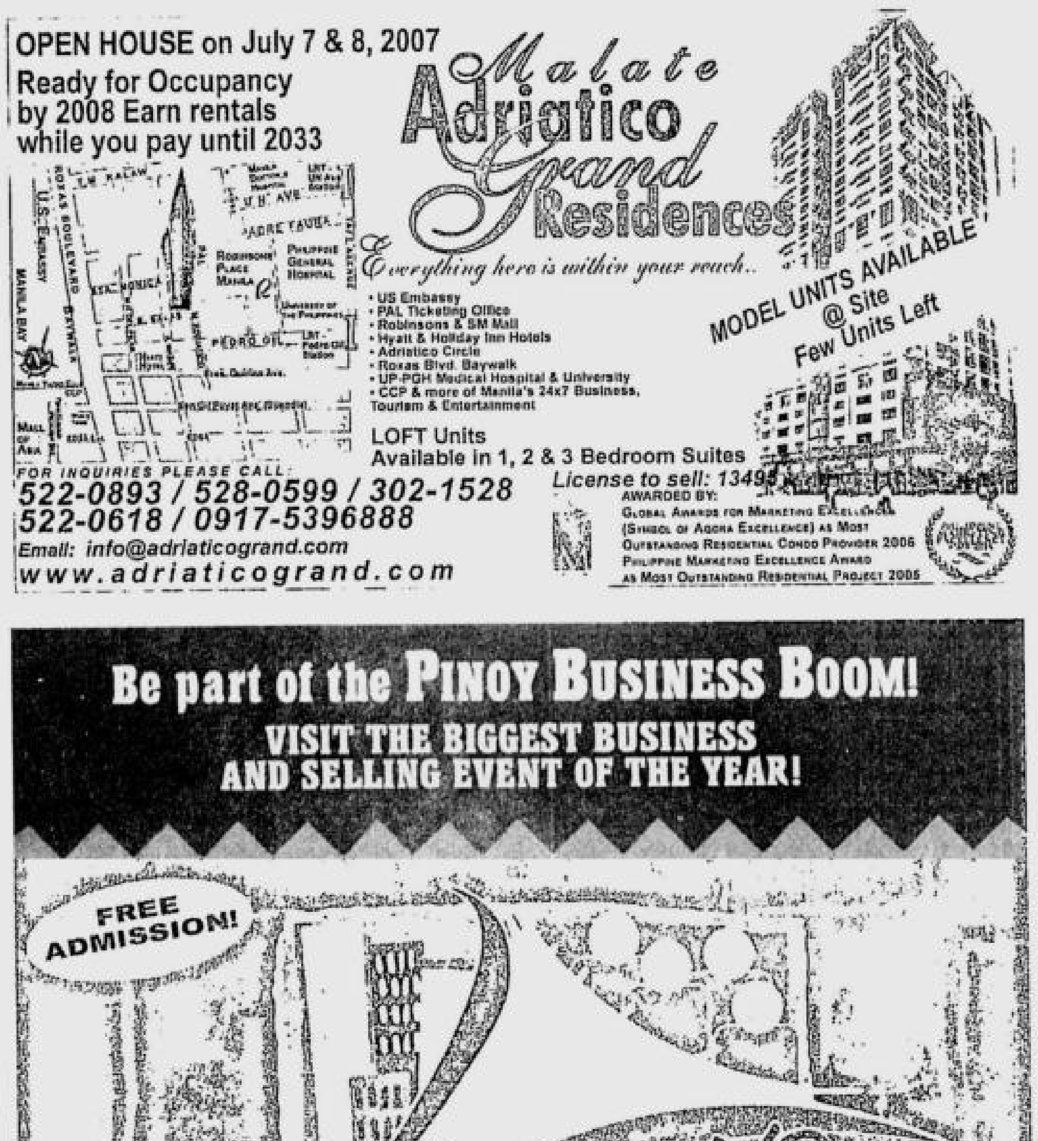
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The PMO-BAC now invites G-EPS registered companies/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for Manpower Services for contract duration of one (1) year.

Bid documents will be available starting 29 June 2007, Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the 4th Floor PMO-BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (P 5,600.00) in cash to the PMO Cashier located at the 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The PMO-BAC will conduct its Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested bidders on 13 July 2007, Friday at 10:00 a.m., 6th floor Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Advanced Eligibility Check shall be on 12 July 2007, Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Bid Opening shall be on 26 July 2007, Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms:

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Tokyo, Japan

GMA, Fr. Ed discuss aid for P'panga

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo and Pampanga Governor-elect Fr. Eddie Panlilio met for the first time on Thursday and over lunch in Malacañang discussed how to bring progress to their province.

At the meeting that lasted from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the President pledged to help the province specifically through infrastructure, housing and flood-mitigating projects, Panlilio said.

"She asked me to submit a comprehensive development plan. She was particularly concerned about the flooding problem and how it affects the people and access to Clark," Panlilio told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Supportive

Arthur Macapagal, the President's brother, joined the meeting. Four business leaders supportive of Panlilio were also present, an INQUIRER source said.

Panlilio, a Catholic priest who has been granted leave by the Church, will take his oath of office on June 30 as the 26th governor of Pampanga.

Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago will administer the oath to Panlilio at the provincial capitol here at noon on Saturday.

Ms Arroyo was in a "very, very happy mood" during the meeting with Panlilio, an INQUIRER source said. They addressed each other as "kabalen" (province-mate).

Partners in dev't

"I think the occasion was our way of saying we are partners in development work," Panlilio said.

Panlilio has also held unity building meetings with Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, provincial board members and mayors including Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda and Sta. Rita Mayor Yolanda Pineda, a son and daughter-in-law of losing gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda whom he defeated.

The Regional Development Council, composed of government officials and private sector leaders in Central Luzon, presented to him on Wednesday a draft of the Pampanga development program.

Panlilio said this would be presented to leaders of local governments and civil society groups in a workshop in July so their concerns could be incorporated into it.

Relationships

"I believe in the importance of relationships before anything else. I hope to establish very cordial but very professional relationships in the capitol and with local officials and other stakeholders," he said.

"We have to go beyond partisan politics and address the needs of the people and the province," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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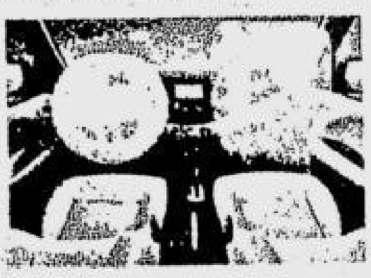
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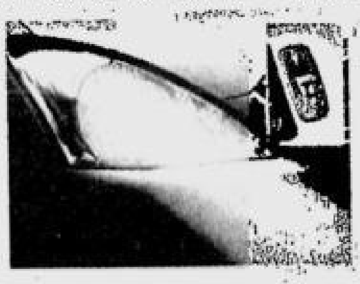
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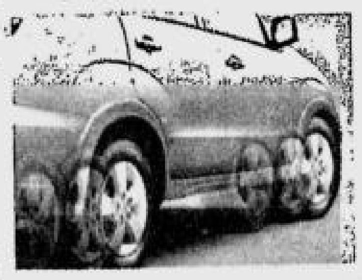
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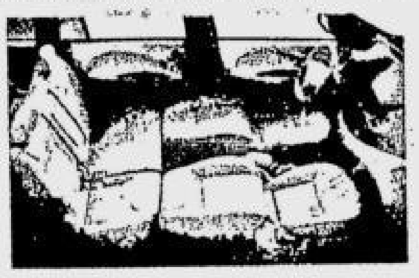
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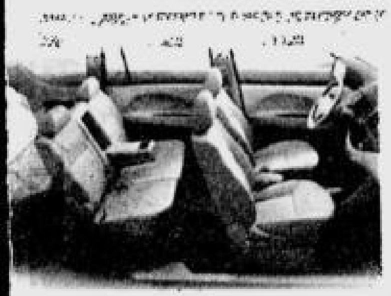

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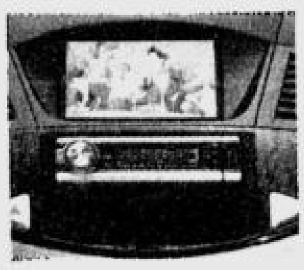

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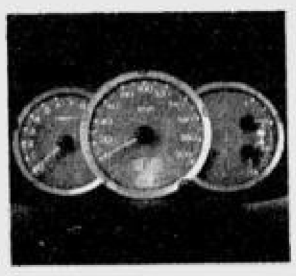

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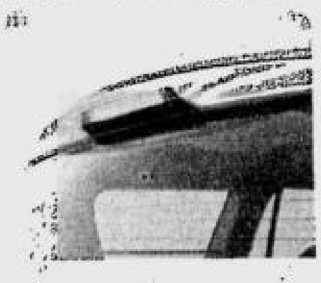

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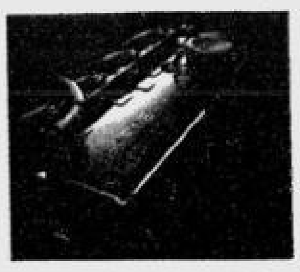

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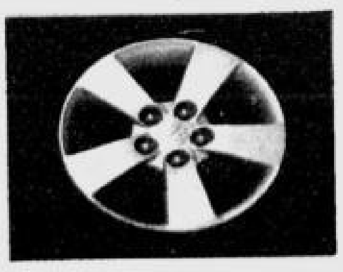

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RP vets bill OK'd by US Senate panel

THE UNITED STATES Senate veterans committee yesterday approved a bill that would provide a special set of benefits for Filipino World War II veterans as well as others who had fought under the US flag.

Philippine Ambassador to Washington Willy Gaa said in a statement released by the Department of Foreign Affairs that Senate Bill No. 1315, or the Omnibus Benefits Bill, was approved in a special hearing conducted by the committee at the Dirksen Building on Capitol Hill.

Special occasion

"Today marks a special and historic occasion in our long-standing quest for justice and equity for our brave and courageous Filipino World War II veterans," Gaa said.

"More significantly, and for the first time in history, the important contributions of Filipino veterans of the last World War are now being officially recognized by a US legislative enactment," he added.

This was the farthest the equity bill has come since the US Congress first tried to repeal the 1946 Rescission Law in 1993. That budget bill deprived thousands of Filipino veterans the benefits due them as former members of the US Armed Forces.

Gallantry

Gaa said the bill's passage into law would benefit thousands of surviving Filipino veterans in the Philippines.

More importantly, he said, it was a recognition of the gallantry of Filipinos who heeded the call of then US President Franklin Roosevelt to join the war effort.

The US Senate version of the bill provides for a minimum annual pension of $3,600 for a Filipino World War II veteran living alone and without dependents. The amount varies if he is married, with dependents or the beneficiary is a veteran's widow.

The bill also increases the life insurance benefits of all disabled veterans and improves the benefits of soldiers with severe burns or traumatic injuries—like those suffered by servicemen who served in Iraq.

Rectify a wrong

In a report to the US Congress, Gaa gave the number of surviving Filipino World War II veterans in the US Army Roster at 18,155, about two-thirds of whom are living in the Philippines.

Gaa also thanked Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, chair of the Senate veterans committee, for sponsoring the bill and for working for its passage in the committee.

Akaka has said the equity bill "gives the committee an opportunity to rectify a wrong done to Filipino World War II veterans over 60 years ago."

Cynthia D. Balana

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Poor Migz?

THREE-TERM CONGRESSMAN AND TEAM UNITY senatorial candidate Juan Miguel Zubiri says he does not cheat in elections. That doesn't mean, however, that he will not benefit from election fraud. Consider the Maguindanao vote.

On May 16, Mindanews reported that, "as expected," Team Unity had swept the provincial elections. With about 73 percent of the precincts canvassed at the provincial capitol, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson was said to lead the administration slate's 12-0 charge. Since then, Team Unity spokesmen have pointed to that sweeping victory, since completed, as a vindication of their machinery-based, command-vote strategy.

When the Commission on Elections, in a most unusual step, convened a special provincial board of canvassers to re-canvass the municipal certificates of canvass of Maguindanao's 22 towns this week (using the second copy, because all the first copies were allegedly stolen while under the custody of provincial election supervisor Lintang Bedol), Singson fell from grace. Zubiri, who is fighting for the last Senate seat against Genuine Opposition candidate Aquilino Pimentel III, emerged as the top vote-getter.

Coincidence? You decide.

Opposition lawyers charge that the Maguindanao municipal COCs were manufactured, and thus should be invalidated; is it only happenstance that the one administration candidate who will benefit from a big victory in Maguindanao gets that victory, with exactly the right margin, during the re-canvass?

Zubiri has gotten a very favorable press in the last few days, including a virtual endorsement of his expected win in Maguindanao from another newspaper's news editor. Much emphasis has been placed on the tense-filled days he is said to have suffered through, while waiting for the Comelec to install him as the 12th senator.

"Poor Migz," the stories say. What they really mean to say is: Election fraud couldn't have benefited a nicer guy.

Incredible Bedol

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IS CERTAINLY taking its sweet time with Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol. After showing unusual, bend-over-backwards patience over Bedol's unusual behavior toward his own superiors, the Comelec finally ordered the controversial election official arrested.

Even after all that waiting, however, the Comelec still took two whole days to actually issue an arrest order. In the interim, Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer, the head of Task Force Maguindanao, even had the temerity to suggest that an ordinary citizen could, if he felt like it, effect the arrest. We have no quarrel with the principle of citizen's arrest; we do have grave concerns, however, with officials who pass the buck to the citizens they are supposed to serve.

A citizen trying to arrest Bedol "should be very careful doing this because he is armed," Ferrer said. But why is he even considering the possibility? Why not immediately order the police to arrest the contemptuous Bedol, considering that he is armed and dangerous?

To be sure, the Comelec faces a dilemma: The arrest of Bedol may ultimately undermine the legitimacy of the Maguindanao vote. An all-out effort to bring Bedol to justice—he has been "deemed guilty" of indirect contempt of the Comelec, Ferrer said—may lead the authorities and the public to uncover evidence of massive fraud, not only in last month's elections but in previous polls, too. Putting Bedol in the dock will certainly reinforce public perception that the Maguindanao election results—a 12-0 sweep for Team Unity candidates, a low ranking for Sultan Jamalul Kiram, zero votes for a total of 19 senatorial bets—cannot be considered credible.

But even on the smaller issue that Ferrer confined himself to, the Comelec has no choice but to act against Bedol, and act with dispatch. "We were placed in a hot spot by an ordinary employee challenging the commission," Ferrer said. "We were made to look like incompetents, so we have to take ... action."

Well, the last time we looked, the country's security forces are still under Comelec control until the end of the month. What is the Comelec waiting for?

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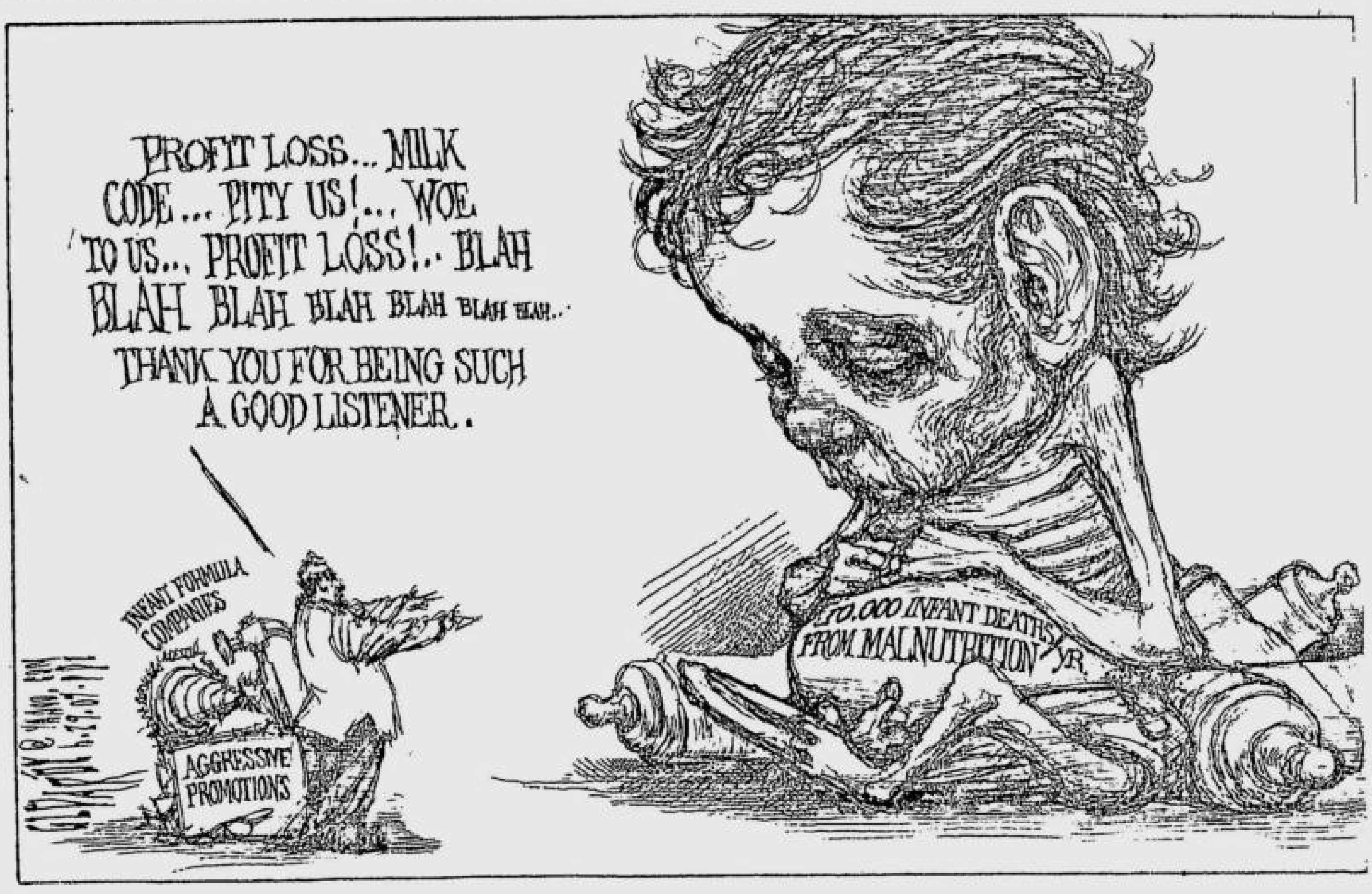
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Comelec should wait for SC decision

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

MORE AND MORE, THE CANVASSING OF THE Maguindanao votes by the National Board of Canvassers looks like a repeat of the canvassing by members of Congress of the votes for president and vice president in the 2004 elections.

If you will recall, there were accusations of massive cheating during the 2004 polls and the opposition tried to point out evidence of cheating while members of Congress were canvassing the votes. But every attempt of opposition lawyers to question the certificates of canvass being counted was met with a curt "Noted" by the committee chair, Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, and then they relentlessly went on with the canvassing. That is why Pangilinan was christened "Mr. Noted" and his inclusion in the last opposition senatorial ticket was opposed by supporters of Fernando Poe Jr. That was the reason Pangilinan ran as an independent.

In the election protest filed by vice-presidential candidate Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro, she proved that there were indeed spurious certificates of canvass that pared down her votes. But owing to the slowness of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, Loren's protest was not completed before the 2007 senatorial elections where she decided to be a candidate. (FPJ died before his own protest could be started.)

In the current canvassing of the Maguindanao votes, there already was plenty of evidence that the certificates of canvass could be spurious. First, Team Unity candidates got a 12-0 victory over their opposition rivals. Second, 19 candidates got zero, a result that the Commission on Elections itself said was "statistically improbable." Third, some teachers said no election took place and that they were forced by armed men to fill up blank certificates of canvass with votes for TU candidates. Fourth, provincial election supervisor Lintang Bedol claims the election returns and municipal certificates of canvass in his safekeeping were stolen. So there are no documents to support the Maguindanao CoC.

The state of the counting of senatorial votes is now a cliffhanger between Genuine Opposition's Koko Pimentel and TU's Migz Zubiri. Based on the figures in the controversial Maguindanao CoC, Zubiri would overtake Pimentel and win if these votes were counted. Thus, Pimentel, who now leads Zubiri by more than 100,000 votes, would lose the Senate seat that is already within his grasp. That is why his lawyers are questioning the counting of these votes by presenting indications of fraud. But every question and every motion is met by what is the equivalent of "Noted" from the Comelec canvassers who then relentlessly continue the counting.

In spite of the pronouncement of Chief Justice Reynato Puno that they would immediately tackle the petition of Pimentel to stop the canvassing, considering its urgency, the Supreme Court set the case for oral arguments but did not issue a temporary restraining order. Most likely, it will take several more days before it can come up with a decision. By that time, the canvassing would have been finished and the 12th senator proclaimed, considering the haste with which the Comelec is counting the questioned votes. Whatever the Court's decision is would be moot and academic.

The Court said it hopes the Comelec would not make its decision moot and academic but that also fell on deaf ears. It is as if the canvassers are following orders to make Zubiri win.

Isn't that highly unfair to Pimentel? Is justice being served by the Comelec's haste in counting questionable votes? Shouldn't the Comelec proceed more carefully because of the highly suspicious origins of the CoCs being counted? Shouldn't the accuracy and integrity of the votes being counted be the priority consideration rather than speed? Shouldn't the Comelec avoid the appearance of railroading Zubiri's election? Shouldn't it assure the people of the credibility of the poll results?

If Zubiri really won, a more careful, though slower, counting would still show that. Nothing would be lost by a slower but more accurate count. On the other hand, an election that is not credible would hound Zubiri for the whole of his term in the same way that President Macapagal-Arroyo is now being hounded by her questionable proclamation as President. I am sure Zubiri would prefer to avoid that and would want his proclamation to be accepted by the people.

The Comelec commissioners who went to Maguindanao to look for copies of the election returns and municipal certificates of canvass that Bedol lost came back with CoCs that "appear authentic," according to them. "Appear"? That's not good enough. People have to be convinced they are really authentic.

It is shocking how the guardians of our elections readily accept as "authentic" documents from a province that produced poll results that they themselves consider to be "statistically improbable."

It has been more than a month since the election, enough time to manufacture authentic-looking municipal CoCs. The CoCs that the Comelec says "appear authentic" could have been manufactured. Forgers from Recto could have easily done that. Why doesn't the Comelec first make sure, without a doubt, that what they are counting are the real McCoy?

Why doesn't it wait for the decision of the Supreme Court? What happens if the Court rules that the Maguindanao votes should be set aside but the Comelec had already proclaimed the 12th senator? Wouldn't it look like the Comelec preempted the Court? Wouldn't the Comelec be accused of railroading Zubiri's proclamation? Wouldn't it look like it is biased against Pimentel? Wouldn't it look like it is following orders from upstairs?

'Either knew or... should have known'

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

WHEN IT COMES TO EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLings, there is a tendency to confuse and conflate two different kinds of international responsibility. The more traditional is called "state responsibility," by which the government is blamed, and the newer form is "individual criminal responsibility," by which certain military officials (or for that matter, armed rebels) may be punished. Either way, the President may be held to account, whether as head of state under state responsibility, or as commander in chief under individual criminal responsibility.

State responsibility is governed by the International Law Commission's Articles on State Responsibility. A government is responsible for the "conduct of any State organ [whether] legislative, executive, judicial or any other function, whatever position it holds in the organization of the State, and whatever its character." Just in case Malacañang is minded to wash its hands by saying that private militias did the dirty job, the ILC says that such acts shall still be attributed to the state "if the person or group of persons is in fact exercising elements of the governmental authority in the absence or default of the official authorities and in circumstances such as to call for the exercise of those elements of authority."

Finally, in the event that the Philippine government thinks it can just look the other way, the International Court of Justice most recently held the Serb government responsible for failing to prosecute the genocidal maniacs who conducted the ethnic cleansing against Bosnian Muslims (and that is after the Court had earlier said—in a disappointing cop-out—that it had no evidence showing that the Serbs directly ordered the genocide).

Moreover, as I have earlier written, the "Who, me?" defense embraced by Malacañang had been thrown out by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights when it held Honduras responsible for the disappearance of a student activist at the National Autonomous University of Honduras. "Those disappearances followed a similar pattern, beginning with the kidnapping of the victims by force, often in broad daylight and in public places, by armed men in civilian clothes and disguises, who acted with apparent impunity ... The disappearances were carried out in a systematic manner [especially considering that the] victims were usually persons whom Honduran officials considered dangerous to State security."

The Court said that the state's obligation under the human rights covenants is not just "to respect" human rights but "to ensure [these rights] to all individuals within its territory...." "What is decisive is whether a [disappearance] has occurred with the support or the acquiescence of the government, or whether the State has allowed the act to take place **without taking measures to prevent it or to punish those responsible.**"

On the other hand, the most authoritative definition of an individual's "command responsibility" is laid out in the 1998 Rome State of the International Criminal Court, which in relevant (but not all) aspects codifies the classic concept of "command responsibility" that the world first saw in the case of the famous Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita. As professor Harry Roque, director of the UP Institute of International Legal Studies, has emphasized in his many lectures here and abroad, "command responsibility" arose from a Philippine case, the "Rape of Manila" during the last few days of the Liberation, when the Japanese troops went on a rampage against civilians, most terribly in the area of the old UP campus in Padre Faura.

Although the Philippines has signed, but not ratified, the Rome Statute, the Philippines has ratified the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which imposes an obligation of "good faith" to abide by a treaty's "object and purpose" during that interregnum between signing and ratification. Of course, Malacañang is suspect from yet another angle. You see, President Joseph Estrada signed the Rome Statute before he left Malacañang, but President Macapagal-Arroyo has since sat on the Statute and refused to forward it to the Senate for ratification, thwarting a procedure laid out in the Constitution.

Moreover, the Rome Statute's codification of "command responsibility" is widely seen as an authoritative restatement of what is called "customary international law," which under the Philippine Constitution's "incorporation clause" is deemed "part of the law of the land." Read Article 28, entitled "Responsibility of commanders and other superiors." It anticipates every possible defense by dastardly governments.

The test is that the commander "either knew, or owing to the circumstances at the time, should have known that the forces were committing or were about to commit such crimes." A commander is responsible not just if he had "effective command and control," but also if he "failed to exercise control properly" or "consciously disregarded information which clearly indicated" that the crimes were being committed. Also, international law has declared obsolete the doctrine of head-of-state immunities for humanitarian law violations. The Rome Statute declares that "official capacity as a Head of State ... shall in no case exempt a person from criminal responsibility under this Statute."

Finally, a commander is responsible for "fail[ing] to take all necessary and reasonable measures within his or her power to prevent or suppress their commission or to submit the matter to the competent authorities for investigation and prosecution."

I sat as member of the drafting committee of the Rome Statute in 1998. I couldn't have imagined that the "her" would become so apt nine years hence.

A perplexing irony

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ELEVEN MILLION FILIPINO VOTERS REWARDED Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV with a seat in the Senate, the bulwark of Philippine representative democracy for the past 91 years, after he and his military cohorts failed to overthrow that democracy and replace it with a junta.

Trillanes' election comes as one of the most perplexing ironies and outcomes of the last election, more significant in its implications for Philippine democracy than the rout of the Arroyo administration in the Senate polls. It shattered a number of time-honored conventions of Philippine politics. Its foremost irony is that it installed Trillanes in the legal political system, raising questions about what message the voters were sending by electing him.

The simplest explanation is that the vote for Trillanes is part of the powerful protest vote, a repudiation of the Arroyo administration, as expressed in the 8-2-2 result in favor of the opposition (which could come down to 7 for the Genuine Opposition, three for Team Unity, if Juan Miguel Zubiri wins the 12th seat in the final count).

Given that the 11 million who elected Trillanes had knowledge of the mutiny, two important issues arise: First, were they aware of the anti-democratic consequences of the coup attempt and of their vote? Second, did their anger at the administration blind them to the fact that they were rewarding Trillanes for his failure and incompetence in staging a coup; or that they were unwittingly planting him like a Trojan horse inside an inherently democratic and consensus-making institution that is inhospitable to impulsive hotheads and arbitrary military methods for conflict-resolution?

Trillanes' election broke precedents. He was the first military officer elected to the legislature while being detained in military quarters, facing trial on coup d'etat charges before the Makati regional trial court, which prevented him from campaigning. He is also reputed to have spent the least among the GO and TU candidates.

Obviously, the administration's decision to hold him in detention and restrict his exposure during the campaign backfired. It gave Trillanes an aura of being persecuted, winning for him a lot of sympathy votes.

The election results, as far as Trillanes is concerned, have created a political monster and thrown into the lap of the political system a sizzling time bomb with a short fuse.

At his proclamation by the Commission on Elections, which he was allowed to attend, Trillanes started to strut his new-found celebrity by bringing an entourage that included a movie company with its potential for myth-making.

Almost as soon as his victory appeared certain, Trillanes started to make noises that his first priority as a senator would be to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo. His more experienced and mature opposition colleagues had to remind him that he was compromising himself by making premature judgments before an impeachment complaint had reached the Senate.

Like most graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, Trillanes brings with him to the Senate military skills honed to violence and to kill enemies of the state. These are skills that are unsuitable for deliberative assemblies. He also brings with him an excellent academic preparation at the PMA, but this does not give him the edge over most of his Senate colleagues. There is therefore little reason to acclaim his election as a gift to the Senate or to proclaim him as a new star or a new Ramon Magsaysay who will spark a renaissance in Philippine politics.

Trillanes has yet to assume his post, but already he has started controversies. When asked by reporters at his proclamation how he intended to discharge his senatorial duties while under detention, he said, "The Senate can amend its rules to accommodate my peculiar situation because the Senate makes its own rules." This is reflective of the view advanced by his ardent fans that having been elected by 11 million voters, he deserves special treatment and that his electoral victory has wiped out the coup d'etat charges he is facing.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. has asked the Makati regional trial court to rule on who should have custody of Trillanes. Esperon said: "Considering his change of status from a military officer to a civilian, the question has arisen whether the senator-elect continues to be subject to confinement in a military detention facility." Trillanes is being held at the Marine barracks in Fort Bonifacio.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye has asked the military to seek the guidance of the court as to whether Trillanes could be transferred to the custody of the Philippine National Police or the Senate to enable him to discharge his senatorial duties.

Veteran members of the Senate did not take a long time to signal that they are ready to cut the newcomer to size before he develops overblown notions of being entitled to special treatment because of his election. The issue of whether Trillanes could attend Senate sessions and hearings prompted Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to warn his colleagues to respect the independence of the court in deciding the issue. Enrile said the Senate through a resolution could not compel the trial court to grant bail to Trillanes or to hand him over to the Senate for custody. He also said the court could not be swayed by the fact that the leader of the 2003 mutiny had been elected senator. "The court will control his movements," said Enrile, "only the court and no one else in our system of government can and will determine whether he will or will not attend the sessions."

So many women, so many stories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PORT DOUGLAS—"SINCE MY SCHOOL DAYS I haven't been among so many women!" exclaimed Suzannah Vaughan, who spoke in a workshop on "Networking and Developing Future Entrepreneurs" at the Apec Women Leaders' Network meeting in this Australian tourism center.

Of course, Vaughn was among very many women, since the annual meeting had gathered over 400 women from the Asia-Pacific region. But what made her statement even more striking was that she has spent much of her life among men. Vaughan is the "offshore installation manager" of the Four Vanguard oil tanker and platform, the youngest ever and the first woman ship captain in Australia.

Vaughan is a striking presence—tall, tanned and broad-shouldered, with a cap of light blonde, almost white, hair. But what comes across even more strongly is her lack of pretense, and her seeming astonishment that so much fuss is being made of her.

She opened her presentation with a story she had written as a child that her mother sent her when she was named ship captain. It was a pirate tale that featured her as a ship captain defending her vessel from marauders who were threatening to run off with her morning tea. It seems to have been a single-minded voyage to her present position, starting with a stint in her teens as crew aboard a sailing ship around the world and her cadetship that tested her physically and psychologically, but, reminds Vaughan, it was "not without times of extreme self-doubt."

Named as captain of the FPSO Four Vanguard at age 28, Vaughan says her personal motto could be summed up as: "Go for it! But go for it with style." Perhaps part of that "style" is her pursuit of environmental protection even as she manages her largely male crew and their work of extracting off-shore oil.

* * *

ENSURING that the vessel leaves a minimal impact on the environment, particularly protecting the waters they work in, is a big responsibility, avers Vaughan. The Four Vanguard, she says, is itself an important innovation, being a mobile platform that allows for the extraction, storage and transport of oil while using technology that minimizes damage to the sea floor and keeping harmful emissions in check.

Vaughan tended to smooth over possible gender-related barriers she had to hurdle on her way to her pioneer status in Australia's shipping industry. Even today, she acknowledges, women constitute "less than one percent" of the workforce at sea. But she has been "lucky" to find male mentors among the captains she has worked under, older men who remembered their daughters when they beheld her and treated her as a member of the family. Asked how she managed not just a male crew, but men with a reputation for being coarse and rough-and-tumble, Vaughan says it all comes down to sensitivity. "You'd be surprised at how these hulking men could be so emotional," she remarked.

Hers is indeed a remarkable story, but what makes it even more remarkable is her own guilelessness, her surprise at the notion that it is any more different or unusual than many other similar stories of young woman making a mark.

* * *

AND she would be right. For speaking at the same workshop was Luz Marina Gomez of the Young Entrepreneurs of Chile, who is herself a "WLN success story." In 2004, recalled Gomez, she was a young mother of one, struggling to make ends meet with "the salary of my husband who was a temporary worker." Then she signed on as a volunteer for that year's WLN meeting in her country and so energized was she by the presence of so many powerful women, leaders in business, politics, academe and civil society, that she decided she had to act and change her life.

"Six months later, I opened a coffee shop," related Gomez, who overcame her initial lack of capital by pooling money from investors and now runs a shop that not only serves coffee but also serves as a gallery of art and showcase of antiques.

Even more important, she networked with other young entrepreneurs in Chile, providing referral services and counseling for struggling entrepreneurs like herself.

"Entrepreneurship is the consolidation of abilities to allow for personal growth," declared Gomez, revealing an attitude that views her venture into business not just as a means of raising income but also as a way of fulfilling her potential and reaching her dreams.

Maxine Westaway, of the International Association of Women, speaking on the value of networking, said linking up with other women and exploring similar interests and opportunities ensure not just a wider range of possibilities, but also "a way to inspire, profile and connect other women." IAW itself is working to enable poor women to create their own futures through a network of 61 village banks in 22 countries.

* * *

INDEED, as speaker after speaker at the WLN meet asserted, the future belongs to the world's women.

Andrina Lever, a co-founder of WLN, quoted a World Bank study at the meeting's opening session: "Forget China, India and the Internet, economic growth in the future will be driven by women."

Julie Bishop, an Australian member of Cabinet, adviser on women's concerns to the prime minister and host of the meet, said that the "rapid development of the Asia-Pacific region needs to harness the full potential of our populations," noting that "no country can afford to ignore the energy and talent of half of its population."

This is what WLN has been trying to do the past 12 years: to get the Apec economies to take note of their women, and to involve women not just in its issues for deliberation, but also in making decisions and policies that map out the future for every citizen, male or female, in this dynamic region.

Lizards that sing?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

GERARD CHESNEL, THE AMBASSADOR OF France, in a rejoinder to last Wednesday's column, asked what happened to the Frenchmen who were part of Magellan's crew because they were not on the list of stragglers who made it back to Spain after the disastrous battle in Mactan. He suggests that these French sailors remained in the Philippines and sired Franco-Philippine children.

Now, that would truly be the beginning of Philippine-French relations—not the establishment of formal diplomatic relations and the opening of embassies 60 years ago. History is often colored by viewpoint, and the commemoration this week was based on a date chosen arbitrarily from other dates and events that could likewise lay claim to the beginning of Philippine-French relations.

On the Frenchmen in the Magellan expedition, I informed the ambassador, just as I always remind Tourism Secretary Ace Durano (who is from Cebu), that Lapu-lapu and his men killed our first tourists in 1521. I make no apologies though, because Magellan's mistake was not just his *kayabangan* and overconfidence. He also involved himself, unwisely and unnecessarily, in a local dispute between Lapu-lapu of Mactan and Humabon of Cebu and consequently got killed in the crossfire.

While it would be fascinating to trace these mestizo French children born in Cebu or Mactan in 1521, we can presume that those Frenchmen were either killed during the battle or were wounded and taken prisoner. We know that the Viceroy of Mexico wrote the King of Mactan requesting the return of Magellan's corpse as well as of prisoners who were taken alive. The reply was that Magellan's corpse was a war trophy and would not be returned.

With regard to the offer of ransom in exchange for the survivors of the battle, the reply was that these men had been nursed back to health and eventually sold off to the Chinese as slaves. Why did the victorious warriors of Mactan have to maintain prisoners of war when it was more practical to sell them off and generate cash?

One of the good things that came out of the celebration of Philippine-French Friendship Day was that I dusted many French books on the Philippines that remained unread since I acquired them. In 1985, the National Historical Institute published the accounts of two French journalists, Henri Turot and Gaston Rouvier, who covered the Philippine-American War in 1899. Their dispatches were rescued from the obscure journals where they originally appeared and given a new lease on life by the excellent translation done by the late E. Aguilar Cruz.

Not many people know or care that Henri Turot wrote a biography of Aguinaldo, placing him in the context of our struggle for freedom. There is a substantial body of Filipiniana in French, much of it collected over the years by Marc and Ofelia Tequi who have since moved from Paris to an ancient chateau in the Dordogne. I used to camp out in their living room and stay up all night reading all their wonderful books on the Philippines. It is a pity that historians doing our early history have to go abroad for research, one just hopes that with the latest computers and the Internet, the world becomes smaller and access to Filipiniana easier.

One of the standard French works on the Philippines was published in the 18th century by Guillaume Joseph Hyacinthe Jean Baptiste Le Gentil de la Galasiere, better known in Filipiniana circles simply as "Le Gentil." Re-reading his book "A Voyage to the Indian Seas" made me cringe at some of his observations that are politically incorrect today. I smile each time he failed to live up to his name, because sometimes he was far from gentle, especially when quoting biased Spanish sources.

Reading Le Gentil, however, often results in amusement, because you see him trying his best to convey to his French readers what he saw and experienced in the Philippines, like the *tuko* that he had not seen but heard. He cited a Spanish source who described it as a peculiar lizard with nails so sharp it could actually run on the face of a mirror. He wrote:

"I have never seen these animals, but I have often heard them in Manila. They ordinarily live in houses. One first hears them utter two or three cries in a trembling voice—something like the cry of an owl, but stronger and quite loud enough to make their presence known throughout the whole house, however big it might be. Then it says quite distinctly, 'Toco, toco,' and repeats this sound ordinarily seven times in succession, but sometimes as often as 11, allowing the tones of the voice to drop toward the end of each sound; so that the last cry the creature gives is not so loud as the first, and in a much lower key.

"I have not seen this animal, as I have said, although I have frequently heard it; and I have been given a picture of the creature that looks like the picture of a lizard. Notwithstanding this, however, I have always found it difficult to believe that the creature I heard was a lizard, for I could not believe that there are any lizards that could sing."

Unlike Le Gentil, all Filipinos know the *tuko*. Reading about our country and people from a foreigner's eyes can be very delightful and informative.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Imported

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A FEW MONTHS AGO, I WROTE ABOUT THE NEED FOR the Philippines to be more vigilant about imports from China. Since then, there has been a number of exposés and scandals that raise even more questions about the safety of such imports.

Just yesterday, the Chinese government closed down 180 food factories after their inspectors found that industrial chemicals—formaldehyde, illegal dyes, industrial wax—were being used to make candies, pickles, crackers and seafood products. Formaldehyde and its derivative formalin are preservatives used for example on textiles (which makes your eyes water when you go to a textiles shop). Formalin is also used in embalming.

Yes, I did note the macabre metaphors, linking Chinese exports to death. This is not an exaggeration. Note some of the other recent incidents:

This week, the US government ordered a New Jersey importer to recall 450,000 radial tires used for pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans. The tires had come in from China and lacked a safety feature that prevented the tires from separating. The tires were being sold in the United States under the brand names Westlake, Compass, Telluride and YKS.

In April, pet food ingredients sent from China to the United States were found contaminated, causing the deaths of several animals. The following month, three states in America banned catfish imports from China because they were found to have been fed an unauthorized antibiotic. (The Americans are careful about these antibiotics in human food because these can cause antibiotic resistance.)

In Panama, more than 100 people died last year after consuming cough syrup laced with diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical. The same chemical has also been found in Chinese toothpaste, prompting Australia, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua to ban such imports.

The Chinese government is responding, aware of the growing backlash against their products. In May, they actually sentenced to death Zheng Xiaoyu, the former head of their food and drug safety agency, for corruption. Zheng was an executive of a pharmaceutical firm before he became the first director of the food and drug safety agency. He headed the agency from 1998 to 2005, and was convicted for accepting bribes from pharmaceutical companies, but during his administration, there were numerous other scandals involving food and drug safety.

With all these exposés, we need to be checking on our own imports. They do not necessarily have to come in directly from China; some of these products may even come in through the United States considering how so many "stateside" goods are now actually made in China.

Questioning imports

Certainly, unsafe imports aren't limited to China. They can come from one of many of our other trading partners, including the United States and other developed countries. One recent example was the problem of rusty infant formula cans from Wyeth, a large American multinational. Wyeth had to recall thousands of these products. (If you were away the last week, do look up the last few days' newspapers, where the serial numbers of the cans were published in full-page ads paid by Wyeth.)

In 2000, Firestone had to recall millions of tires that had the same problem as the Chinese tires being recalled now. Firestone's tires were linked to increased risks of rollover of light trucks and sports utility vehicles with some 271 documented deaths and hundreds more injured before the tires were recalled.

When you get down to brass tacks, our vulnerabilities go back to the way we look at imports. Anything imported, especially from Western countries, is seen as superior to our own. We need to be more critical about these products and realize that West is not necessarily best. I'm thinking now of food supplements, touted as "natural remedies" and "herbal drugs," with suggestions that these are completely safe. The "Made in the USA" print further glorifies these products. The fact is that food supplements are coming under greater scrutiny now in the United States because of problems of safety and efficacy.

Under current laws, these products are not subject to the strict rules applied for regular pharmaceuticals, which is why the laws in the United States (and in the Philippines since we copied the American regulations) stipulate that such products should not make any therapeutic claims. Yet I've actually caught local radio ads for these imported products, where they rattle off all kinds of illnesses which the supplements supposedly prevent or cure. . .and then ended it all with "No Therapeutic Claims Approved"!

Given our weak regulatory environment, consumers need to be very vigilant and critical. I want to give one more example here, and this is the problem of steroids being used for weight gain and body-building. Just this week, American wrestler Paul Benoit strangled to death his wife and son, before committing suicide. Steroids are suspected in this bizarre case because they can cause psychosis.

Yet steroids are easily available in the Philippines, sold even in sporting supply stores. Even in urban poor areas, men can buy steroids a few tablets a time, thinking they're for weight gain or to put on muscles. And what's striking is how the buyers will say, "*Ay* imported *'yan*, Stateside," to suggest that they're very effective—and safe.

The flood of Chinese imports raises another issue: People will argue that these products are priced low and therefore allow even the poor to avail of more consumer items. I will not debate the cheapness (and I mean cheap) of the products, but have two very simple questions.

First, what are these cheap imports doing to our own fledging industries? Our local industries, ironically owned by ethnic Chinese as well, have closed down, unable to compete, with some of the businessmen ending up now as importers.

Second, does cheap really mean lower costs in the long run? I've bought some of these products and because they break down so quickly, I've realized you actually end up spending more because you have to keep replacing or repairing them. Worse though are the inferior products that you might end up taking only once, the foods and medicines, with not too pleasant results. Cheap? It's your call.

I'm hopeful that China will get its act together, partly because of pressure from outside. As more countries and governments complain, and ban its shoddy products, China will have to raise its manufacturing standards and clean up its corrupt bureaucracy. Just as "Made in Japan" moved from its shabby connotations in the 1950s to excellence today, we just might find "Made in China" meaning high quality in the future.

But even if that happens, I still hope we don't end up continuing as mere importers of these products.

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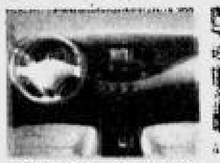
SM Sta. Rosa	June 24 - July 1
VISAYAS	
Ayala Mall-Cebu	June 28 - July 1
MINDANAO	
Galsano Mall of Gensan	June 26 - July 1
Limketkai Mall	June 28 - July 1



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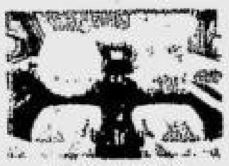

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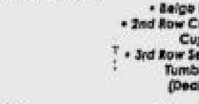

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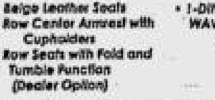

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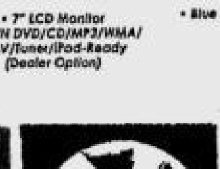

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* Color may vary from actual unit. * Photos show the Fuzion GLS Sport.

An ignominy in Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan

THIS REFERS TO THE UNEXTENDED portion of the North Luzon Expressway in Pampanga.

As a Pangasinense, I came home for a visit sometime in 1992 and was elated to see that the North Luzon Expressway had been extended up to the Sta. Ines exit in Mabalacat, Pampanga, with an open end—mute proof of an extension to be done. However, when I and my family again came home sometime in 1998 or after a lapse of six years, I was very disappointed to see the expressway unextended, even up to Tarlac *man lang sana*.

But lately, what I saw during my visit last month, or 15 years later, shocked me. The freeway remains unextended. On our way to northeastern Pangasinan, we suffered horrendous traffic gridlocks in Tarlac, and we had to negotiate an overcrowded and accident-prone MacArthur Highway.

Worse, I was informed that side and detour roads were constructed without coordination and planning, which is why they are "incoherent" and failed to address the problem.

I think that the failure to remedy the situation is unconscionable. This is an area where two past presidents and the current President come from. What have Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino and the other prominent public figures (e.g., Peping and Danding Cojuangco, Jose de Venecia) from the place done on the matter in exchange for the votes that the people in the area have been giving them for decades? What have the provincial governments of Tarlac and Pangasinan and the national government done to solve the problem? This is unforgivable neglect! *Nakakahiya*, even.

In America, such a basic and high-priority infrastructure project would have taken no more than a year to finish. One can imagine how much tourism and other economic activity such a project could have generated in the whole region north of Pampanga, especially Ilocandia, in 15 years. What an ironic waste considering the opportunity.

Is the delay a confirmation that, in our "laggard" country, public officials think and act based mainly on what is good for a few and, worse, for themselves alone? What an ignominy if that is so.

—EUGENIA DECENA-YOUNG,
45-46 24th Street,
Long Island City,
New York 11101 USA

An encounter with shame in Clark

"NOW EVERYONE CAN FLY" THAT'S what the AirAsia slogan says. But let everyone travel, too, at least in comfort, if not in style.

I do not have anything against AirAsia. In fact, my husband and I are very satisfied with its service, considering it's a budget airline. What really bothered us was an experience at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA).

We had taken a shuttle bus to Clark from Manila. It was full of Filipino travelers and foreign tourists (Filipinos, a couple of French, a group of Malaysians, a Malaysian family with an infant and a toddler and some Americans, not to mention three senior citizens). We were dropped off in front of the airport terminal, which was very convenient. But I was surprised to find the terminal still closed.

We were then asked to fall in line outside the airport, under the sun. We were all hot and sweaty, but we patiently waited. Until three Malaysian women cut the line and the chaos started. People remonstrated. My husband tried to reason out with the women, but they said they've got an appointment and won't budge. He then went to the five guards hanging around at the entrance—under the shade, of course. He asked who was in charge, and they pointed at each other.

So my husband asked all of them why they allowed the three women to cut in, when all of us, including the senior citizens, had been patiently waiting for our turn. We expected them to do something about the situation, but they didn't. Instead one of them just shouted: "Who came in first?" Wasn't it obvious? We were in line. Then the guard said, "Whoever (has) any complaint can go first!" Wasn't that insulting?

So I told the guard (in Filipino) that he was setting a wrong example and he was putting our country to shame. Meanwhile, the Malaysian guy next to me kept saying, *"Ah pilipin, pilipin,"* and he sounded disgusted. He said the place was too big, why couldn't they put up a tent with chairs, so the passengers can wait, enjoying some comfort?

I have since tried to get in touch with the management of DMIA by e-mail to let its officials know what's happening at their airport. But DMIA has no e-mail address. I hope the DMIA officials will get to read this letter.

It's a shame that the airport carrying the name of a great president offers such a poor service. What a shame.

—JOHANNA DE ASIS,
jodeas@yahoo.com.ph

Plea for a Burmese political prisoner

AS MEMBERS OF AMNESTY INTERnational, we belong to one of eight British groups writing to Burmese authorities on behalf of Kho Aung Htun, who was arrested in Yangon in February 1998 and was sentenced to 17 years in jail for distributing books.

About 50 members of our group are trying to alert Burma to the fact that this man is detained solely because of his peaceful political activity. We are particularly concerned about his health, which has been in a state of decline ever since he was tortured in 1998. We are all the more worried as we deplore the sad news about Thet Wing Aung who was in Mandalay prison.

We firmly believe that Kho Aung Htun is innocent and has been unjustly sentenced. We hope that the INQUIRER will therefore support our plea for his immediate and unconditional release.

Our appeal is in no way political. It is driven solely and purely by humanitarian considerations.

—RAYMOND AND MARTINE COULON,
7 Hackington Rd.,
Tyler Hill, Canterbury,
Kent CT2 9NF, UK

More of old plaints re GSIS eCard

MAY I SHARE MY very unpleasant experience with the GSIS eCard system which I think may also have been the experience of some, if not most, of government retirees.

I updated my eCard with the GSIS Quezon City Branch on May 21, 2007. I tried to withdraw my pension from the Union Bank on June 4, and again, on June 12, only to find out, in both instances, that my current balance remained at a measly P84.69. There was no corresponding cash for my April, May and June 2007 pension. I have not availed of my GSIS pension for the past three months.

Repeated follow-up phone calls to the GSIS Quezon City Branch did not merit the courtesy of a reply. Certainly, not the kind of service expected from the "GServiceIS." Hence, my questions remain unanswered: Why is there no corresponding cash for my April to June pension at the Union Bank? Of what use is my eCard then?

It is appalling to think of what would happen if I solely depended on my monthly pension to support my needs not only for food but also for medicine and doctors' fees, among others. I would be in dire need, indeed.

"Maawa naman po kayo sa aming mga matatandang retirado." Please give us a more efficient system, so we can get our monthly pension on time.

—DR. ESTELA GARCIA,
28 June St.,
Congressional Village, QC

HANDA PO KAMING SUMAGOT

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FOR PENSIONERS
pension@gsis.gov.ph

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The Customer Relations and Monitoring Department
3/F, GSIS Financial Center,
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City 1308

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
GSIS - Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan Maasahan.

Liquids ban in hand luggage to be lifted

By Tarra Quismundo

AVIATION OFFICIALS HAVE FINALLY DECIDED to lift the total ban on liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) in carry-on luggage, a security procedure that most of the world's airports downgraded three months ago.

From Aug. 1, a modified ban on LAGs will be in effect in the country's eight international airports and smaller provincial airports. Instead of being totally banned, these substances, including perfume, toiletries, cosmetics etc., will be allowed in carry-on luggage in 100-ml containers.

"There might be some passengers who will insist on carrying bigger containers, but our screening personnel have been trained to strictly allow LAGs in 100-ml containers or smaller. It's the container they should look at, not the content," said airport security chief Angel Atutubo.

The revised security procedures are a somewhat belated compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) recommendation on LAGs, which was supposed to have been implemented last March.

The downgraded ban, already in practice at most airports around the world, followed ICAO's reassessment of the global security situation.

Exactly a year ago, ICAO recommended a total ban on LAGs to protect the flying public because of a terror threat involving liquid bombs in the United Kingdom in August last year.

All of the country's airports currently bar LAGs from carry-on luggage and allow them only in check-in luggage.

Atutubo said passengers will now be allowed to bring LAGs 100 ml or less in their carry-on luggage but must place them in transparent resealable plastic bags measuring 20cm x 20cm for inspection. The bag must hold only a liter of LAGs, or at most 10 containers.

The Manila International Airport Authority will provide the required transparent plastic bags, but passengers may use their own so long as these are the standard resealable kind, Atutubo said.

The amount of baby food and medication in LAGs is not covered by this restriction. Passengers may carry more than 100 ml of these items in carry-on luggage but they will have to undergo tighter screening, according to Atutubo.

"We have prepared leaflets that we will give to passengers at the departure area, we have signs to be placed around the airport premises, and we will be announcing the new screening procedure every 30 minutes," he said.

To further spread word on the downgrade, the revised security regulation has been posted on Miaa's website and carried online by airlines operating here.

The Office of Transport Security, the body that approves or rejects new or revised security procedures in the country's land, sea and airports, said the agency gave the downgrade a thumbs up after "seeing no other impediments."

"This will harmonize the Philippine airport liquid screening procedure with other foreign international airports," the OTS said in a statement.

New immigration unit bars would-be OFWs from leaving

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION'S WEEK-old monitoring unit at the Ninoy International Airport has intercepted 39 Filipinos about to leave for various countries without the proper travel and work papers, the agency said yesterday.

In a statement, the BI said the Filipinos were stopped from boarding their flights when personnel of the newly formed Migration Compliance and Monitoring Group (MCMG) learned they were going abroad to work, not to go sightseeing as their travel papers indicated.

The interceptions occurred between June 21 and 24.

Of the 39, 23 were barred from taking their flights at Naia Terminal 2 while 16 were stopped at Naia Terminal 1.

The "tourists" were bound for Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore, among other cities, Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said.

"The 'tourist' workers did not go through the required processing at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and attempted to circumvent the government ban on the departure of undocumented OFWs (overseas Filipino workers)," Libanan said.

All OFWs must get a clearance from the POEA, but some leave the country purportedly as tourists and take their chances at getting work documents at their destinations.

Amid reports immigration officers were escorting undocumented passengers through the airport for a fee, Libanan disbanded the BI's 20-member monitoring and enforcement unit and created the 31-person MCMG "to facilitate tighter inspection and strict monitoring of passengers" at the Naia terminals. *Tarra Quismundo*

PAL expanding operations to Clark

TALKS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE EXPANSION of Philippine Airlines operations from Pasay City to Clark in Pampanga in a bid to transform the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) there into a premier airport and accommodate the growing number of air passengers in that part of the country.

In a press briefing in Makati City, PAL president Jaime Bautista said the transfer of major operations to the 30-hectare property formerly occupied by Federal Express would take place "within the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo."

Bautista said the property could eventually expand to 50 hectares depending on the outcome of the negotiations.

In contrast, the present PAL domestic and international terminal at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City only covers 20 hectares.

Bautista said PAL was in the final phase of negotiations for catering, ground handling and maintenance services for the Clark terminal.

He said construction costs alone could reach as high as $30 million to $50 million while maintenance is expected to cost another $20 million to $30 million a year.

"We're trying to fast-track it. We're looking at it in terms of operations. The trend in Asia now is to put airports farther away from the cities. In Kuala Lumpur, the airport near the city was closed and moved farther away. That was also the case in Bangkok," Bautista said.

"That is what we are going to do at Clark but we will also maintain our operations here (in Pasay City)," he said.

For its part, Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) said it was preparing for the entry of prospective locators by expanding infrastructure and adding services.

"We welcome the announcement of PAL. Clark, which will have its one-millionth international passenger this week, is stepping up its development to respond to a bigger and growing interest in DMIA," CIAC president Victor Luciano said. *Cynthia D. Balana and Riza Olchondra*

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Italy told: Help in rescue not for sale

COTABATO CITY—REELECTED REP. ABDULLAH Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte's second district has expressed doubts over the reported promise of the Italian Embassy to provide economic aid to the village whose inhabitants could lead to the whereabouts of missing Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi.

"My people are committed to help in the recovery and safe return of the Catholic priest even without reward," said Dimaporo, referring to the abduction of a 57-year-old priest from Milan.

Italian Ambassador Rubens Anna Fedele, who was closely monitoring the rescue mission launched by government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in several provinces in Mindanao, pledged to give "economic packages" to the villagers' community that could help pinpoint Bossi's whereabouts.

Bossi was snatched on June 10 by armed men in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay, where he was working as a parish priest.

Dimaporo, who upholds the President's no-ransom policy, said his constituents had helped in the release of two kidnapped Italians—Geussippi Ferrantoni and Andrea Ceanferrani—in 2004 and 2005.

"That successful rescue of the visiting Italians from the kidnappers did not even earn a thank you from Italy," said Dimaporo, a scion to the prominent political clan. His father Ali, who ruled Lanao del Sur as governor, died at 96, earning the moniker as Mindanao's political kingpin due to his vast influence.

The congressman's wife, Imelda, outgoing governor of Lanao del Norte, had earlier regarded as diversionary the military report saying that Bossi had been moved by his captors to Lanao.

But the congressman said reports of unusual evacuation of villagers from Barangay Pikong in Lanao del Sur had made him suspicious, prompting him to ask local officials to check the cause of the mass movement.

"It brought back a similar situation prior to the rescue of the two Italian nationals some two to three years ago," Dimaporo said.

Pikong is near the town of Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte, whose newly elected governor is the legislator's eldest son Khalid.

"I told Khalid to coordinate with his counterpart in Lanao del Sur to find out if the missing Bossi was in the area," Dimaporo said.

Residents said they also noticed a group of unidentified persons carrying assorted foodstuffs and grocery items on their way to a forested area of Pikong.

"The priest could still be alive based on the food supplies" that were seen by the people, said Dimaporo.

The military said it could not pinpoint the exact location of Bossi and his captors, although they have been surrounded. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Execs get death threats after bloody eviction

BAGUIO CITY—DEATH THREATS OVER A piece of land that costs no more than P25 a square meter now plague officials of Rizal, Kalinga.

Rizal Mayor Marcelo de la Cruz authorized on Monday the ejection of alleged squatters from a 200-hectare agrarian reform property in the town that used to belong to the late Sen. Vicente Madrigal.

Members of a demolition team and their police escorts engaged in a 10-hour gunfight with the alleged squatters, who were waiting for them armed and concealed in foxholes, police said.

When the battle ended, nine people were killed and 10 policemen were wounded. About 30 houses were razed by fire.

De la Cruz said he began receiving threats as soon as the squatter families started retrieving their dead.

"I [have been] receiving calls and text messages on my mobile phone. *Sinasabi sa akin na, 'Humanda ka, pati ang anak mo at ang pamilya mo'* (The messages warned me to prepare myself, as well as my son and family). There were also threats coming from the bereaved families [warning me] they would take revenge," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

De la Cruz is an outgoing mayor. His son, Chris Mark, won the May 14 elections and will take his place in July.

> 'There were negotiations being made in between the gunfight, but we had casualties...'

Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales, Cordillera police director, said five men and two teenagers were facing frustrated murder charges.

"They were waiting for the police in foxholes. The police had no recourse but to defend themselves. There were negotiations being made in between the gunfight, but we had casualties," he told reporters here.

De la Cruz said he ordered the demolition of 30 houses in Barangay San Pascual on a complaint filed by 350 agrarian reform beneficiaries in November 2006.

The former Madrigal estate encompassed almost 2,000 ha of land in Barangays San Pascual, Bagbag-Bulbol, Macutay and San Quintin.

In 1991, the Supreme Court converted the estate into public land, allowing the Department of Agrarian Reform to break it up for farmers, DAR records showed.

Each hectare is valued at P250,000, according to De la Cruz.

But the property has become the subject of conflicting land claims.

In 2006, the DAR, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples offered to settle the disputes by allowing farmers in the area to decide how they wanted their land titles processed, said Naty Sugguiyao, NCIP Kalinga director.

The three agencies released several certificates of ancestral land titles, processed an application for a certificate of ancestral domain title filed by three Kalinga clans for 270 ha, issued free patents covering 200 ha, and certificates of land ownership claims covering over 400 ha.

Sugguiyao said the agencies were in the middle of settling the claims when the demolition order was issued. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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After much delay, Antique winners declared today

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A SPECIAL BOARD of canvassers appointed by the Commission on Elections is set to proclaim today the winning candidates in Antique led by Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez.

The board, chaired by lawyer Daisy Real, acting director of the Comelec's planning department, will convene at the old Capitol in the capital town of San Jose in Antique to finish the canvassing of votes and proclaim Perez and 11 other provincial officials.

The board is composed of lawyer Jesse Suarez, Negros Occidental election officer (vice chair), and Bacolod City election officer Mavil Majarucun (secretary).

The Comelec's First Division, in a June 22 order, formed the special board to replace the previous one chaired by Comelec regional director Renato Magbutay. The previous board had failed to proclaim the winning candidates.

The old board was replaced because of a pending case of indirect contempt and insubordination filed by Perez against its members.

Perez, who is leading former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador by more than 13,000 votes, asked the Comelec in her petition to cite Magbutay and two other board members in direct contempt.

She said in her petition that the decision of the board to suspend her proclamation and that of 11 other winning candidates on June 15 was "highly contemptuous" because it entertained Pacificador's objection to its composition.

The governor asked the poll body to impose administrative sanctions and to suspend the members of the previous board "for its act of gross insubordination" for allegedly failing to abide by the Comelec First Division's June 7 order to proceed with the canvassing and proclamation of winning candidates.

Pacificador, on June 25, filed before the Comelec en banc a petition questioning the appointment and composition of the special board of canvassers.

He said he would question the legality of the new board when it convenes today.

The poll body's first division has dismissed for lack of merit the appeal of Pacificador questioning the legality of the creation and composition of the previous board.

A group of governors earlier expressed alarm at the failure of the Comelec to proclaim winners in five provinces, saying such could lead to a leadership vacuum in those areas.

Other contests that have not been settled were those in Isabela and Cagayan.

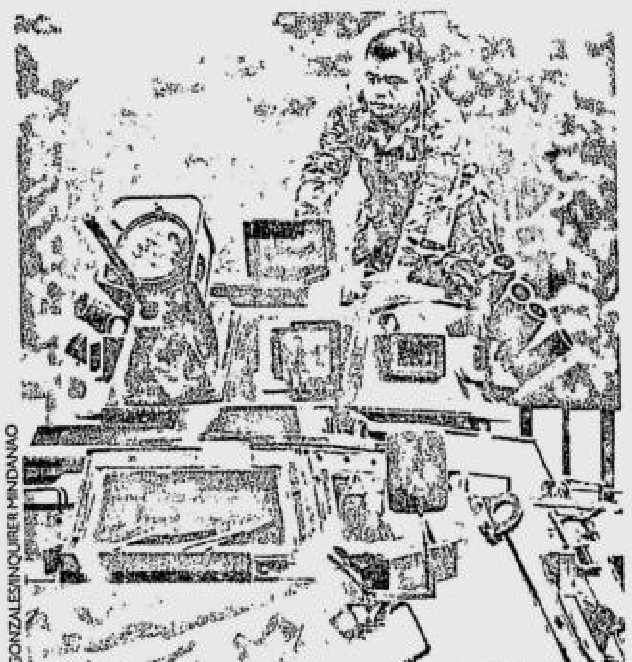
The post is still being contested by reelectionist Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca and former Gov. Benjamin Dy.

The Comelec has yet to declare who between reelectionist Gov. Edgar Lara and Alvaro Antonio won in the elections in Cagayan.

The newly created province of Shariff Kabunsuan has been placed under Comelec control for election-related violence and security concerns.

None among the three candidates—incumbent Gov. Bimbo Sinsuat, former Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Mastura and former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao—has been proclaimed.

With a report from Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon


BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

A SOLDIER checks on an armored personnel carrier prior to deployment for the May 14 elections.

Army pulls out troops in Bulacan rampage

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—SOLdiers who indiscriminately fired their guns in Sunday night's fiesta in the island village of Binuangan in Obando, Bulacan, committed "a breach in discipline and leadership" and were pulled out on Thursday, an Army commander confirmed to the INQUIRER.

The troopers had been replaced by about 20 soldiers who belonged also to the 73rd Reconnaissance Company, according to Col. Rommel Gomez, chief of the 703rd Infantry Brigade.

Even as the new soldiers reached Binuangan on Thursday morning, residents continued to call for the total and immediate pullout of soldiers because they caused harm and trouble to the villagers, said Tiburcio Burgos, an elderly leader.

On Sunday, Burgos, 72, said the soldiers rushed out to the streets at around 8:30 p.m., fired in the air or at houses, threatened the residents at gunpoint, shouted invectives at them, and rounded up nine men to be taken to the City of Malolos.

He said his cousin, Godofredo Burgos, 63, died of heart attack after the soldiers took his son Gerald.

"*Sa simula, isang putok muna. Tapos, nagpaputok sila ng marami. Mga sampu putok. Talagang* rapid. *Sa takot ng mga tao, nagdapaan. Ako na nasa kalsada rin, pinagmumura ng mga sundalo* (First, there was only one shot. Then they fired about 10 shots. These came in rapid fire. Out of fear, the residents lay on the ground. I was on the street and the soldiers shouted invectives at me)," he said.

The soldiers also went to the Aglipayan church, kicked its doors and shouted invectives at churchgoers, he said.

He said Mayor-elect Onrie Gabriel had witnessed this because he was inside the church.

Apparently, he said the supposed rampage happened after one of the soldiers accidentally fired his rifle during a drinking session at the barangay hall that has been converted into an Army detachment.

A stray bullet wounded the wife of the platoon leader, 2Lt. Larry Beldia, according to Senior Insp. Eriberto Perez, Obando police chief. She was taken to the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Gov, private firm told to pay trader ₱120M

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A JUDGE IN Bataan has ordered the provincial government, reelected Gov. Enrique Garcia Jr., the provincial treasurer, a former register of deeds and a private company to pay a businessman P120 million in damages for lost paper mill machinery and equipment.

Judge Remigio Escalada Jr. of the Bataan Regional Trial Court said the compensatory damages to Victor Gawtee came with a 6-percent interest rate yearly until it was fully paid.

He also ordered Garcia, provincial treasurer Emerlinda Talento, former register of deeds Amelita Abad and Sunrise Paper Products Industries Inc. to return to Gawtee P9.676 million from the initial proceeds of the sale of machinery and equipment. The amount will be deducted from the P120 million in compensation damages.

Escalada instructed the provincial government to keep P2.291 million as payment for Sunrise's real estate tax debts.

The three-year legal suit began when the provincial government auctioned off in February 2004 pieces of properties of Sunrise to recover P2.291 million in tax arrears. The company stopped operations in its Orani plant in 2003.

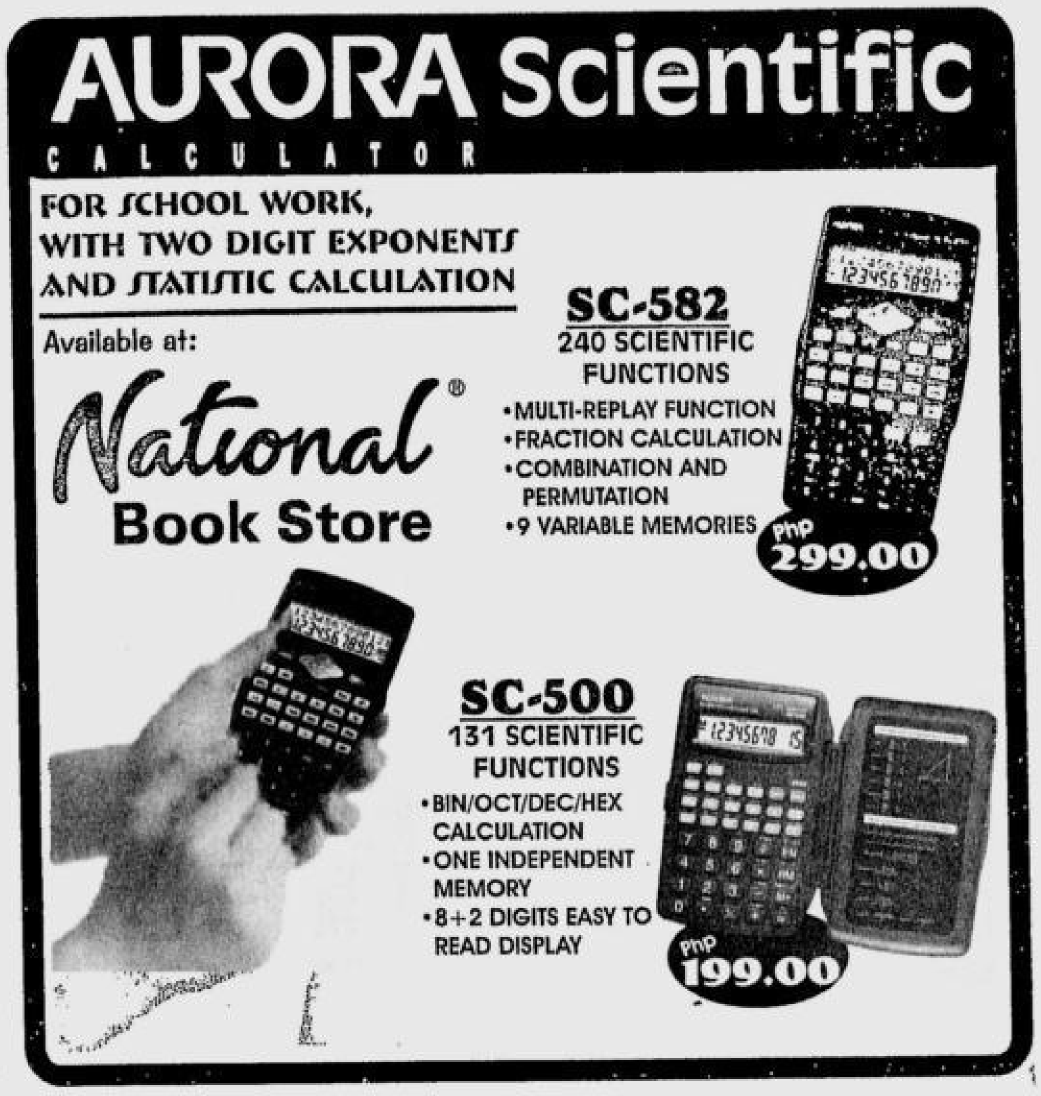
Claiming to have no bidders, the provincial government bought the pieces of properties, consolidated two parcels of lots into new titles, and entered into a compromise agreement with the company to sell and dispose of the machinery and equipment.

Gawtee asserted ownership and possessor of the machinery and equipment, showing certificates, including mortgagee rights assigned to him by the government-owned Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency.

The same court, through its Branch 1, earlier favored Gawtee over Sunrise in another civil case.

Metrobank, on the other hand, claimed the two lots previously mortgaged by Sunrise for a loan.

Escalada declared "invalid and illegal" the warrant of levy and notice of sale made by the provincial government on Jan. 2 and Aug. 29, 2003, for the pieces of properties. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*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Caller ID/Phonebook		
Caller ID Compatible *2 (FSK/DTMF)	●	●
Caller ID Memory*2	50 items	50 items
Basic Function (Handset)		
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ILOILO CITY—A SPECIAL BOARD of canvassers appointed by the Commission on Elections is set to proclaim today the winning candidates in Antique led by Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez.

The board, chaired by lawyer Daisy Real, acting director of the Comelec's planning department, will convene at the old Capitol in the capital town of San Jose in Antique to finish the canvassing of votes and proclaim Perez and 11 other provincial officials.

The board is composed of lawyer Jesse Suarez, Negros Occidental election officer (vice chair), and Bacolod City election officer Mavil Majarucun (secretary).

The Comelec's First Division, in a June 22 order, formed the special board to replace the previous one chaired by Comelec regional director Renato Magbutay. The previous board had failed to proclaim the winning candidates.

The old board was replaced because of a pending case of indirect contempt and insubordination filed by Perez against its members.

Perez, who is leading former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador by more than 13,000 votes, asked the Comelec in her petition to cite Magbutay and two other board member [illegible] direct contempt.

She said in her petition that the decision of the board to suspend her proclamation and that of 11 other winning candidates on June 15 was "highly contemptuous" because it entertained Pacificador's objection to its composition.

The governor asked the poll body to impose administrative sanctions and to suspend the members of the previous board "for its act of gross insubordination" for allegedly failing to abide by the Comelec First Division's June 7 order to proceed with the canvassing and proclamation of winning candidates.

Pacificador, on June 25, filed before the Comelec en banc a petition questioning the appointment and composition of the special board of canvassers.

He said he would question the legality of the new board when it convenes today.

The poll body's first division has dismissed for lack of merit the appeal of Pacificador questioning the legality of the creation and composition of the previous board.

A group of governors earlier expressed alarm at the failure of the Comelec to proclaim winners in five provinces, saying such could lead to a leadership vacuum in those areas.

Other contests that have not been settled were those in Isabela and Cagayan.

The post is still being contested by reelectionist Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca and former Gov. Benjamin Dy.

The Comelec has yet to declare who between reelectionist Gov. Edgar Lara and Alvaro Antonio won in the elections in Cagayan.

The newly created province of Shariff Kabunsuan has been placed under Comelec control for election-related violence and security concerns.

None among the three candidates—incumbent Gov. Bimbo Sinsuat, former Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Mastura and former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao—has been proclaimed.

With a report from Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Gov, private firm told to pay trader ₱120M

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A JUDGE IN Bataan has ordered the provincial government, reelected Gov. Enrique Garcia Jr., the provincial treasurer, a former register of deeds and a private company to pay a businessman P120 million in damages for lost paper mill machinery and equipment.

Judge Remigio Escalada Jr. of the Bataan Regional Trial Court said the compensatory damages to Victor Gawtee came with a 6-percent interest rate yearly until it was fully paid.

He also ordered Garcia, provincial treasurer Emerlinda Talento, former register of deeds Amelita Abad and Sunrise Paper Products Industries Inc. to return to Gawtee P9.676 million from the initial proceeds of the sale of machinery and equipment. The amount will be deducted from the P120 million in compensation damages.

Escalada instructed the provincial government to keep P2.291 million as payment for Sunrise's real estate tax debts.

The three-year legal suit began when the provincial government auctioned off in February 2004 pieces of properties of Sunrise to recover P2.291 million in tax arrears. The company stopped operations in its Orani plant in 2003.

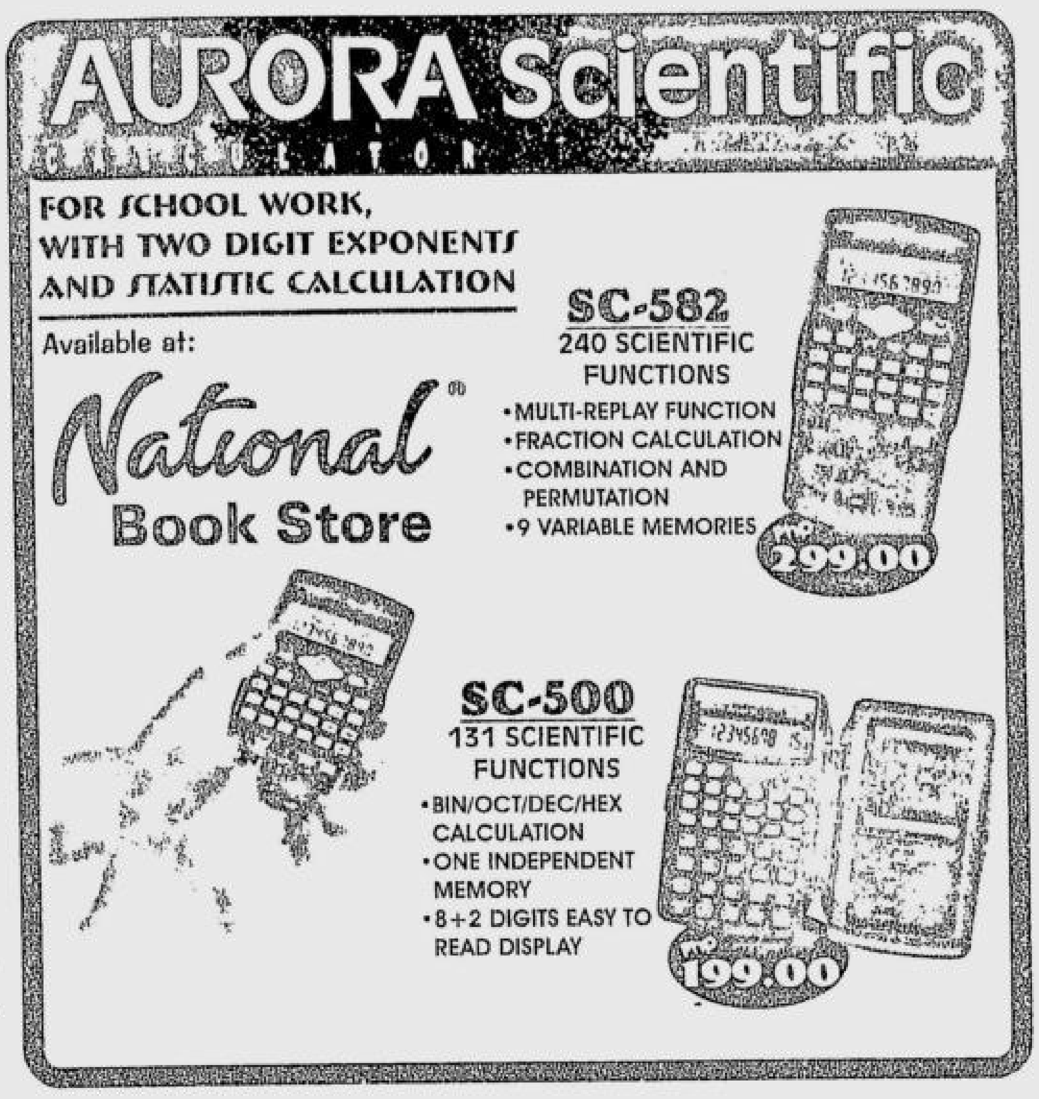
Claiming to have no bidders, the provincial government bought the pieces of properties, consolidated two parcels of lots into new titles, and entered into a compromise agreement with the company to sell and dispose of the machinery and equipment.

Gawtee asserted ownership and possessor of the machinery and equipment, showing certificates, including mortgagee rights assigned to him by the government-owned Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency.

The same court, through its Branch 1, earlier favored Gawtee over Sunrise in another civil case.

Metrobank, on the other hand, claimed the two lots previously mortgaged by Sunrise for a loan.

Escalada declared "invalid and illegal" the warrant of levy and notice of sale made by the provincial government on Jan. 2 and Aug 29, 2003, for the pieces of properties. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



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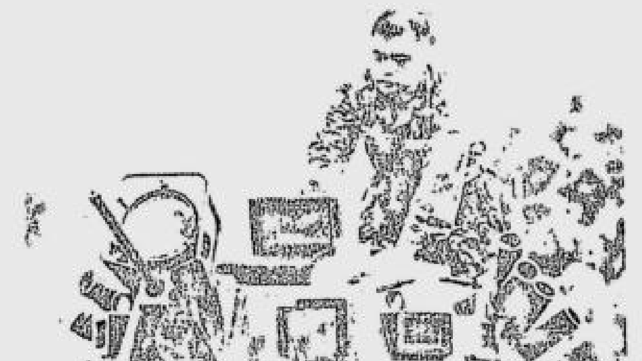

A SOLDIER checks on an armored personnel carrier prior to deployment for the May 14 elections.

Army pulls out troops in Bulacan rampage

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—SOLdiers who indiscriminately fired their guns in Sunday night's fiesta in the island village of Binuangan in Obando, Bulacan, committed "a breach in discipline and leadership" and were pulled out on Thursday, an Army commander confirmed to the INQUIRER.

The troopers had been replaced by about 20 soldiers who belonged also to the 73rd Reconnaissance Company, according to Col. Rommel Gomez, chief of the 703rd Infantry Brigade.

Even as the new soldiers reached Binuangan on Thursday morning, residents continued to call for the total and immediate pullout of soldiers because they caused harm and trouble to the villagers, said Tiburcio Burgos, an elderly leader.

On Sunday, Burgos, 72, said the soldiers rushed out to the streets at around 8:30 p.m., fired in the air or at houses, threatened the residents at gunpoint, shouted invectives at them, and rounded up nine men to be taken to the City of Malolos.

He said his cousin, Godofredo Burgos, 63, died of heart attack after the soldiers took his son [illegible]rald

"*Sa simula, isang putok muna. Tapos, nagpaputok sila ng marami Mga sampu putok. Talagang* rapid. *Sa takot ng mga tao, nagdapuan. Ako na nasa kalsada rin, pinagmumura ng mga sundalo* (First, there was only one shot. Then they fired about 10 shots. These came in rapid fire. Out of fear, the residents lay on the ground. I was on the street and the soldiers shouted invectives at me)," he said.

The soldiers also went to the Aglipayan church, kicked its doors and shouted invectives at churchgoers, he said.

He said Mayor-elect Onrie Gabriel had witnessed this because he was inside the church.

Apparently, he said the supposed rampage happened after one of the soldiers accidentally fired his rifle during a drinking session at the barangay hall that has been converted into an Army detachment.

A stray bullet wounded the wife of the platoon leader, 2Lt. Larry Beldia, according to Senior Insp. Eriberto Perez, Obando police chief. She was taken to the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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Caller ID/Phonebook			
Caller ID Compatible *2 (FSK/DTMF)		●	●
Caller ID Memory*2		50 items	50 items
Basic Function (Handset)			
LCD		Dot 16 digits x 3 line	Dot 16 digits x 3 line
Backlit Handset Keypad		●	●
Redial Memory		5-history (Name*4 & No.)	5-history (Name*4 & No.)
Intercom (Handset to Handset)		●*3	●*3
Intercom (Handset to Base)		—	●
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TAM Function			
TAM		[illegible]	●
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Weight	Base Unit (g)	210 g	250 g
	Handset (g)	150 g	150 g

*2 Requires subscription to Caller ID service by a telephone company
*3 Optional Handset Required
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NDF says cops prosecuting fall guys in mayor's ambush

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATic Front (NDF) urged investigators of the ambush of Pulupandan Mayor-elect Magdaleno Peña not to prosecute fall guys.

"Stop persecuting the innocents," the communist-led NDF said in a statement sent to media on Wednesday.

Peña survived the ambush staged in Pulupandan on May 30, but his two companions were killed.

"We challenge the PNP (Philippine National Police), NBI (National Bureau of Investigation), and the prosecutor's office ... to be impartial and not be dictated by a criminal warlord," according to the statement from the NDF Negros, quoting Ka Bayani Obrero of the Boy Gatmaitan Command.

Despite the New People's Army admission that it was behind the attack, the NDF said officials of the PNP, NBI, Armed Forces of the Philippines and the prosecutor's office were trying to cover up the truth.

"Peña's insanity in persecuting innocent civilians who were not connected to the NPA ambush in Pulupandan must stop," the statement said.

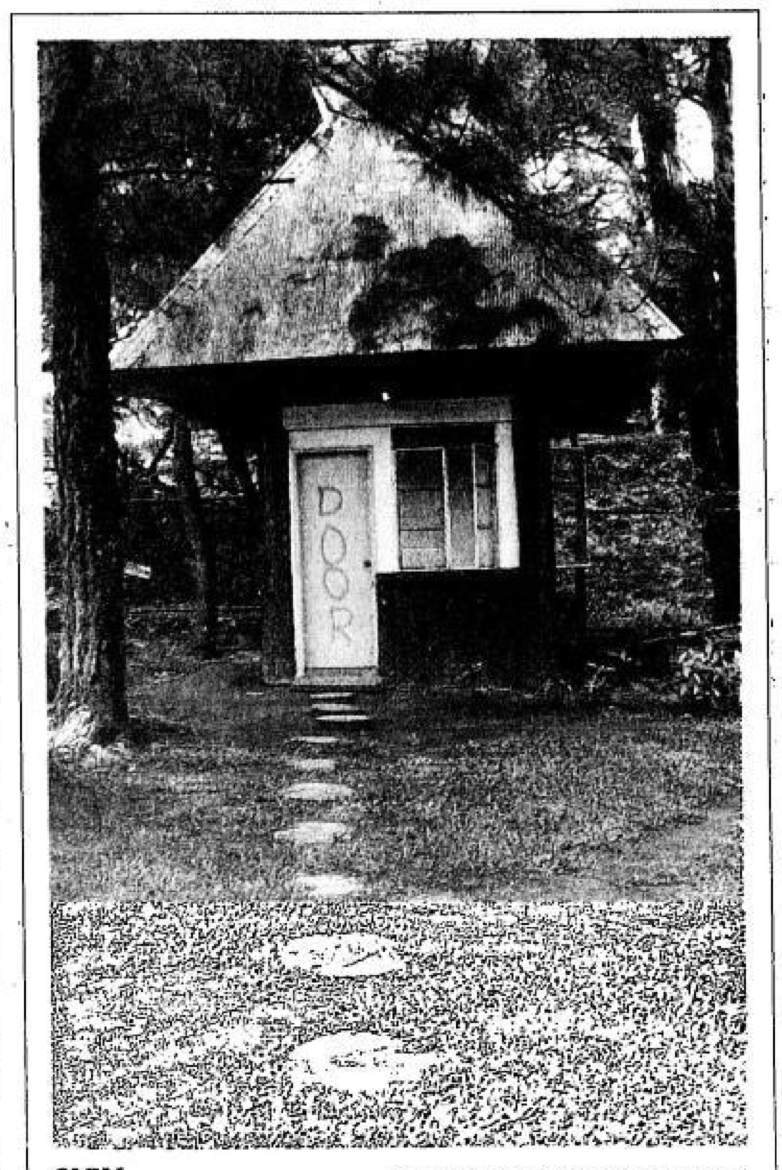
The NDF alleged that authorities "quickly filed cases, made warrants of arrest and looked for suspects that Peña wanted to persecute."

In contrast, it said, the authorities were "blind and deaf to the crimes of Atty. Peña since the 1980s."

Peña said no case has been filed against him. "The NPA should stop issuing press releases like they are the lawyers of Samson Mondia," he said.

Peña has accused Mondia, who ran against him for mayor in May, of staging the ambush. Mondia has repeatedly denied the charge.

Peña also sought the NPA's comment on the statements of farmers from Barangay Inolingan in Moises Padilla town, who denied that he had taken their land.



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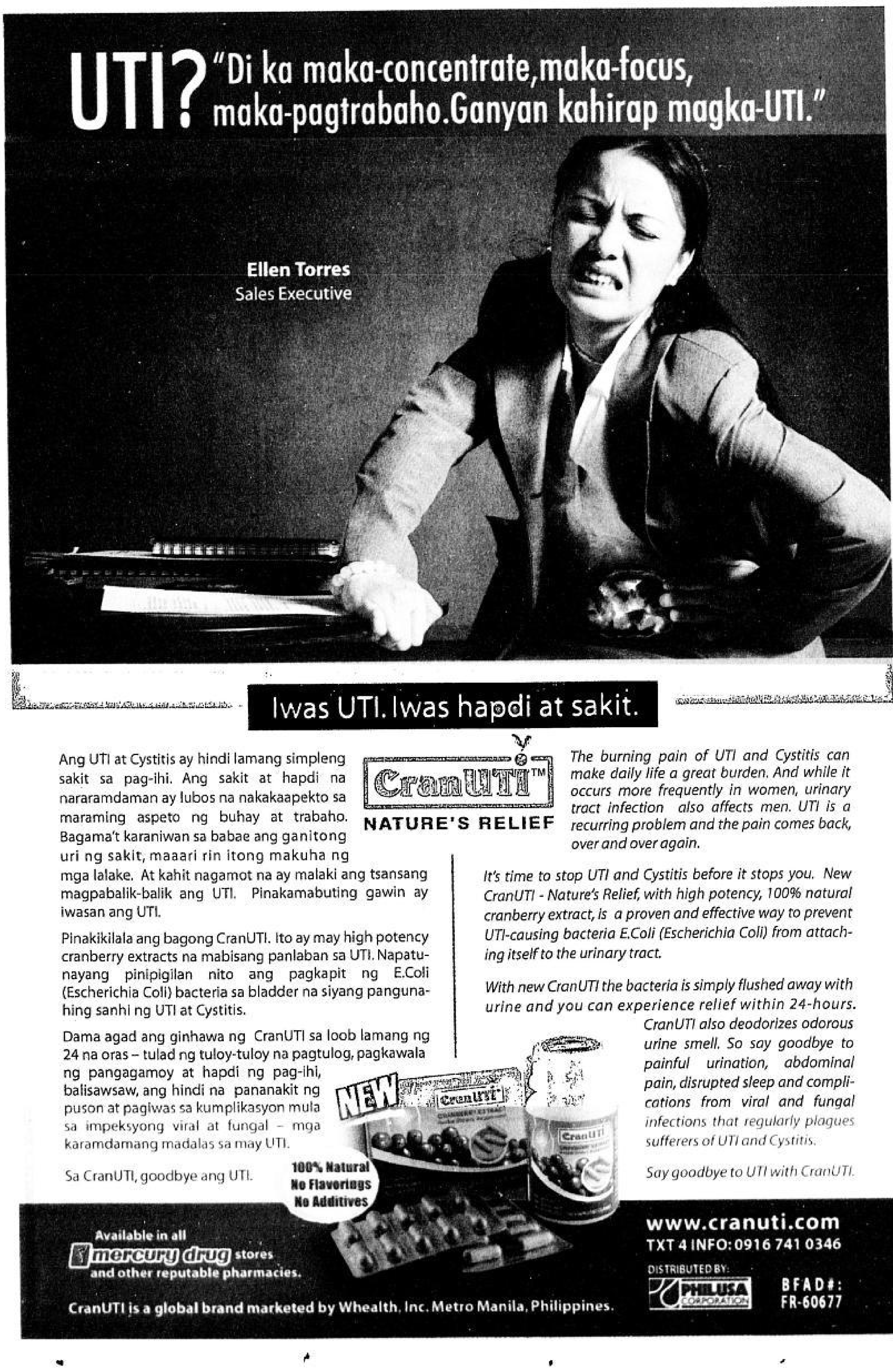

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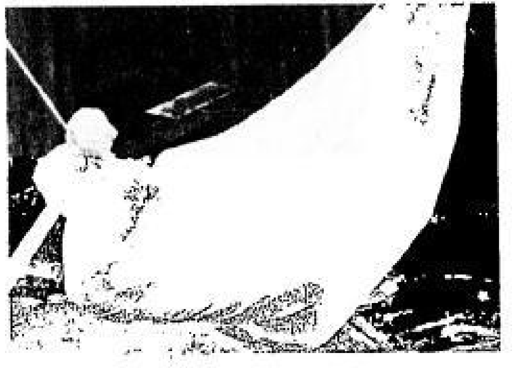
Palawan winning war on malaria with use of simple method

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—It didn't take sophisticated equipment or complex chemical processes to wage a successful war against malaria in Palawan.

All it took were mosquito nets and a type of insecticide that kills mosquitoes on contact.



A MAN sleeps in a mosquito net in Antipolo City in Rizal amid an increase in the number of malaria cases in the suburban area. JOAN BONDOC

Mosquito nets soaked in Etofentrox helped bring down the number of malaria cases in the province by 76 percent in the last six years, according to health authorities that helped distribute these nets to towns that have been plagued by the mosquito-borne disease.

"We have seen a progressive decline in the number of cases ... since 2000 when the program started," said Dr. Rey Angluben, project director of the Kilusan Ligtas Malaria (KLM), which is run by the provincial government and the Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. (PSFI).

The trend has raised hopes among local health officials that malaria would be eradicated sooner than expected. Palawan hopes to be malaria-free by 2020.

Angluben said in a press briefing on Wednesday that the anti-malaria campaign had been centered on encouraging households to use the treated mosquito nets, which are effective for six months.

After six months, users are asked to bring the nets back to the barangay health centers to be dipped in the insecticide.

Some 50,000 mosquito nets under the program have been distributed and "microscopy centers" and health clinics have been set up in many villages to attend to patients, according to PSFI program manager Marvie Trudeau.

Nets for free

This year, Trudeau said, the nets, which cost P276 ($6) apiece would be given away for free.

Malaria is caused by a parasite called plasmodium that is transmitted by mosquitoes. Red blood cells are inflamed and ruptured, leading to death in extreme cases.

Palawan tops a list of 26 provinces that account for 90 percent of malaria cases nationwide, according to the KLM. It has 47 percent of all the cases, Trudeau said.

Recorded deaths from malaria went down from 45 cases in 2000 to 12 last year, Angluben said.

"There has been an observed decline in the prevalence of malaria over the past few years," KLM officials said. In 2006, 13,084 cases were recorded throughout Palawan compared to 22,245 cases in 2004, when the campaign started to pick up.

The PSFI has poured in about P150 million in grants over the past six years to fund a range of activities, including the spraying of households to destroy the mosquitoes' breeding areas.

"We are using etofentrox and not DDT, even if the World Health Organization still allows its use for disease control," Angluben said.

Information campaign

He credited the program's information campaign for much of its success. More communities have become more aware of the disease, how it can be prevented by the simple use of mosquito nets, and by knowing that the barangays are equipped with free medicines for patients, he said.

Jane Evangelista, an official of the provincial health office, said the information campaign had also been aimed at encouraging people with symptoms of malaria to undertake blood smear tests.

"Our more pressing concern right now is the complacency on the part of many affected communities because of this seeming success, and the possibility of sudden outbreaks as shown by our previous experiences," Trudeau said.

AFP: We can beat NPA rebs without US help

From page A1

chief said the United States wouldn't mind should the Philippines ask for its help in fighting other organizations designated by both countries as terrorist.

Keating was in the country for the Mutual Defense Board and Security Engagement Board meetings with the AFP chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Regional security

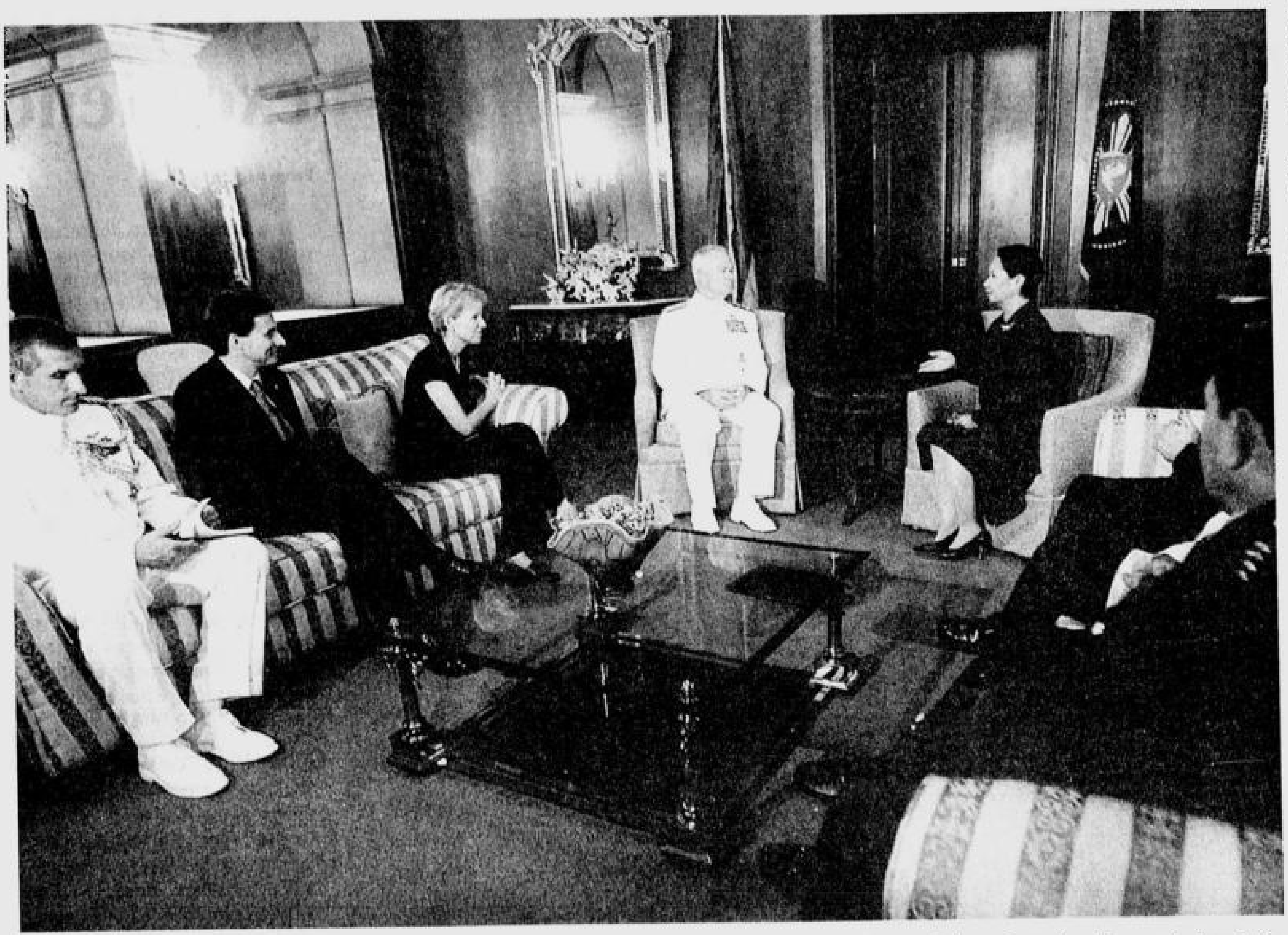
In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday discussed regional security with Keating during his courtesy call.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo assured Keating of cooperation not only by the Philippines but also on a multilateral basis with Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Ms Arroyo is this year's chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Bunye said Ms Arroyo thanked Keating for the US government's assistance in relief and rescue operations during the recent typhoons.

Ms Arroyo welcomed the presence of the USS Peleleu, which brought US Navy personnel who are undertaking humanitarian missions in typhoon-ravaged areas in Bicol.



COURTESY CALL AT THE PALACE: The President and Admiral Keating meet for a cordial exchange of views. Seated on the couch, from left, are Capt. Greg Nosal, US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Paul Jones and US Ambassador Kristie Kenney. In the foreground is AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

LYN RILLON

Human Security Act

Bacarro noted that Keating made the statement about the United States helping Manila fight groups classified as terrorist.

The NPA has yet to be classified as a terrorist group because the Human Security Act will take effect only next month, Bacarro said.

The antiterror law requires that those deemed by the government to be terrorist undergo a "proscription" process, which Bacarro said was a "tedious" process.

"So it has something to do with policy. It would even be beyond the AFP to comment on the statement made by Admiral Keating," the AFP information chief said.

Human rights violations

Self-exiled leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its political arm, the National Democratic Front, condemned Keating's statement.

"Admiral Keating's statements appear to be coordinated with attempts of the Arroyo regime to use the so-called Human Security Act in trying to intimidate the NDF," said CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison in a statement from the Netherlands.

Sison said "far worse" human rights violations would be committed by government forces should the United States take part in counterinsurgency.

In a separate statement, Fidel Agcaoili, NDF human rights committee chair, called Keating's statement "interventionist."

Agcaoili said that despite continuous US military support in the form of the Visiting Forces Agreement and Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), the government had failed to quell the communist insurgency.

The communists have been waging a 37-year-old insurgency.

NPA strength

Their forces are spread through most of the country, straining the manpower and supply lines of the 120,000-strong AFP and the 110,000-member PNP.

Latest estimates by the military show that the NPA has about 7,100 fighters, down by at least 5,000 men from its forces in 2002.

The military reported that at least 850 NPA rebels were either killed or captured last year, including 13 guerrilla front secretaries. About 500 of the rebels were reportedly killed in encounters.

But the rebels belied the military's figures, claiming that they have the equivalent of 27 battalions or about 13,500 full-time fighters with high-powered rifles, and are backed by "tens of thousands" of militias nationwide.

The CPP also claims the NPA now operates in more than 120 guerrilla fronts.

Bacarro said the military intended to cut the number of NPA members by 1,000 every year starting last year.

"If we reduce them by 1,000 every year, we will be able to reduce them by 2010 to a very inconsequential level that they will not be able to make major attacks," he said.

Bacarro said the government was not only using military force but was also tapping other agencies to "fast track" the efforts against the NPA.

Covert operations

The CPP spokesperson, Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, said the US military forces had long been directly engaged in unconventional and covert combat operations against the NPA.

"The US military has ... provided training, technical assistance, weaponry and intelligence information in the counter-revolutionary war to suppress the armed and unarmed patriotic forces," Rosal said in a statement.

US forces have been using joint military exercises, terrain and "social mapping," and humanitarian and disaster-relief operations to increasingly trespass in and familiarize themselves with the areas where the NPA is strong, according to Rosal.

Rosal claimed that the US military carried out intelligence-gathering operations in Bicol and Quezon in late 2004 and Leyte in 2006 using humanitarian missions as cover. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

OPEN LETTER TO OUR PRESIDENT

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo:

We, the Mindanao Microfinance Council (MMC), the network organization of Mindanao microfinance institutions (MFI's) composed of rural banks, non-government organizations and cooperatives, would like to convey our firm support for Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Secretary Teves has served us, the Mindanaoans, faithfully and for many years by implementing the policies of your administration when he headed the Land Bank and chaired the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC), during which, the microfinance sector experienced phenomenal growth thus helping achieve the SONA targets in 2004. His term under the Department of Finance further contributed to the growth of the finance sector, directly benefiting MFI's, that are working hard to deliver financial services to the poor micro entrepreneur, the agriculture sector and other marginalized sectors most specially in the countryside.

Sec. Teves' stellar career as a public servant has been unblemished by corruption, while his track record as manager and a leader has been one marked by not just competence but excellence.

We know that we do not have to present to you the background of Sec. Teves to convince you of his competence and dedication in serving our countrymen. We believe that you have chosen him to be your partner in achieving your goals.

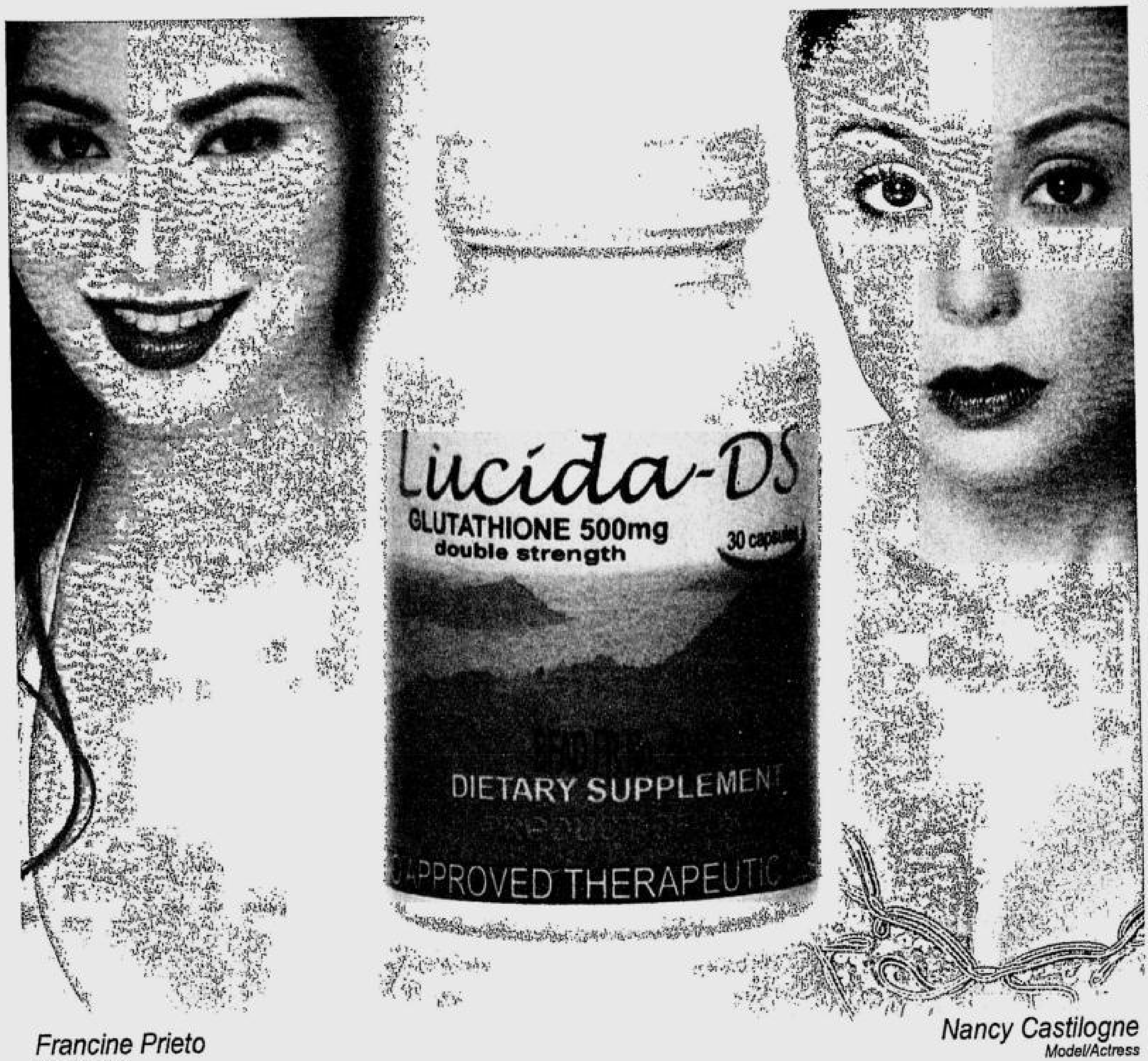
We, coming from the world of finance, continually endeavor to show you that we share the same intentions of helping our countrymen most especially the poor people.

We humbly request you, our dear President, not to let politics get in the way of the economic advances that you have achieved. Please retain Sec. Gary Teves as Secretary of the Department of Finance. We, like any other Filipino, rely on your capacity to decide on this without any bias. We believe in your desire to help our country prosper and we support you in this endeavor.

We write to you to express our great reliance to you. We commend to you the future of the economy of the country. We know that you share the same sentiments we have.

Respectfully yours,

THE MINDANAO MICROFINANCE COUNCIL, INC.
MISAMIS ORIENTAL, BUKIDNON AND CAMIGUIN FEDERATION OF RURAL BANKS
CARAGA RURAL BANKERS FEDERATION



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Inquirer bags 4 JVO journalism excellence awards

From page A1

It was the second consecutive year that Zamora won the top prize in the same division and category. Last year, she and fellow INQUIRER reporter Gerry Lirio won the first prize in the investigative report category for daily newspapers for their article, "Tracing the trail of the tape."

An INQUIRER story on the struggle and fears of citrus farmers who opposed a mining project in Nueva Vizcaya won the second prize in the same division and category.

"Citrus farmers restive over mining project," published on March 15, 2006, was written by INQUIRER correspondent Melvin Gascon, who received a plaque and P40,000 in cash.

Other Inquirer winners

An INQUIRER Investigative Team report on the Guimaras oil spill also won second place in the explanatory report category open to daily newspapers.

The i-Team, headed by Fernando del Mundo, was made up of reporters Leila B. Salaverria, Tina Arceo-Dumlao, Donna Z. Pazzibugan, Carla P. Gomez, Margaux C. Ortiz, Tech Torres and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. The story was published on Oct. 23-25, 2006. The group received a plaque and P40,000 cash prize.

Written by Daxim L. Lucas and Clarissa S. Batino, an INQUIRER story about how Filipinos are coping with the economic crisis won third place in the explanatory category of the daily division. The story was published on Jan 8-11, 2006.

Now on its 18th year, the JVOAEJ was launched in 1990 to honor the late Jaime V. Ongpin, a press freedom advocate who had also served as secretary of finance during the Arroyo administration

The awards were divided into investigative and explanatory categories until last year when the articles published in the dailies were judged separately from articles published in the non-dailies.

Other awardees

The other JVOAEJ winners:

- First place, investigative report, nondaily division: "Leyte sea roils from rape of WW2 ships" by Inday Espina-Varona with Yvette Lee and Christine Mangulabnan, published in the Philippine Graphic, Oct. 23 and 30, 2006.

Varona, a first-time winner in the JVOAEJ, was also granted the Marshall McLuhan Prize, a travel study tour of Canada given by the Canadian Embassy to the top winners in the investigative report category.

- Second place: "Making money from making peace," by Aries Rufo, published in Newsbreak on July 31, 2006.
- Third place: "The Romualdezes and Equitable Bank," by Lala Rimando with research by Evelyn Katigbak, published in Newsbreak on June 3, July 3, 17, and 31, 2006.
- First place in the explanatory category, daily division: "RP detergent industry struggles to stay afloat" by Mary Ann Ll. Reyes, published in the Philippine Star on Nov. 8-9, 2006. Reyes, also a first-time winner in the JVOAEJ, also received the Australian Ambassador's Award, a travel grant to Australia given by the Australian Embassy to the winner in the explanatory category.
- First place explanatory Report, nondaily division: "Seeing red" by Carmela Fonbuena, published in Newsbreak, on July 3, 2006.
- Second place: "Preparing for disaster" by Vinia M. Datinguinoo, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), published in i-Report, March-April, May-June, 2006 issues.
- Third place: "Incentives for the rich harm the poor" by Roel Landingin, PCIJ, published in the Philippine Star, BusinessMirror, Malaya, Manila Standard Today, and Sun Star Cebu, on Aug. 14-15, 2006.

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Burgoses may be given 'restricted' documents

From page A1

He said the Provost Marshal's report, a copy of which Edita Burgos had been demanding, was an "internal document" of the AFP that was classified as "restricted."

"That's the very intent of restriction [of documents]—that those who should have access to them should have access," he told reporters.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Edita Burgos accused the Army of "forcibly taking" her son, and Esperon of covering up the crime.

Burgos said Esperon's "unacceptable" refusal to give her a copy of the Provost General's report on the investigation of the abduction had reinforced her belief in the military's involvement.

It was the first time since Jonas' disappearance on April 28 that his mother, the widow of the late press freedom icon Jose "Joe" Burgos, directly accused the AFP.

License plate

But according to Bacarro, the inquiry conducted by the Provost Marshal's Office delved only into how the license plate (TAB 194) of a vehicle impounded at the 56th Infantry Battalion's camp in Norzagaray, Bulacan, ended up on the getaway vehicle of Jonas' abductors.

Still, investigators were not able to find out how the license plate got lost, and exactly when it happened, he said.

"[O]ne thing sure is that the chief of staff is not covering up anything. [He] is not covering for those officers involved here by not providing the family at this moment a copy of the Provost Marshal General's report," Bacarro said.

Jonas Burgos, 37, was forcibly taken by three men and a woman from a Quezon City mall, according to eyewitnesses.

He had been training farmer-members of the Alyansang Magbubukid ng Bulacan, a provincial chapter of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), in organic farming.

The AFP was implicated in his disappearance because of the license plate on the getaway vehicle, which, military officials later said, had been stolen from the camp.

The investigation of the Provost Marshal's Office found Lt. Col. Noel Clement and Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano—both former commanders of the 56th IB—as well as 69th IB commander Lt. Col. Edison Caga guilty of negligence for the loss of the license plate of the impounded vehicle, Bacarro said.

It stopped there

Caga was included in the administrative charge because it was his forces who occupied the Army camp from November 2006 to March 2007, when the whole 56th IB was away for training. Feliciano remains suspended to this day.

THE ADMIRAL AND THE GENERAL: AFP Chief of Staff General Esperon hosted US Adm. Keating who came on a five-day visit here to attend the Mutual Defense Board and security-enhancement meetings between the Philippines and the United States for joint counterterrorism operations in the region. AP

Bacarro acknowledged that one of the reasons cited by AFP lawyers in the letter they sent to Edita Burgos' lawyer refusing the release of the Provost Marshal's report was the fact that the implicated officers were still being investigated.

He said the report did not touch on Jonas' abduction but only on the loss of the license plate—"and stopped there."

Asked if this meant that the Burgos family would not get anything from the report, Bacarro said: "Of course they can get information relative to the loss of the license plate, but it will end [there]."

Asked whether he thought Edita Burgos was being used by leftist organizations to accuse the military of a coverup, he said he would not say that: "Because, you know, she is a mother and her son is missing. It's normal for anybody to exhaust all efforts to find her son."

Surveillance

Burgos told the INQUIRER that shortly after her son disappeared and up until two weeks ago, she had noticed suspicious vehicles, including motorcycles, tailing her car whenever she went to her office or to church.

She suspected that her stalkers were military men.

"They really made their presence felt, following me wherever I went," Burgos said yesterday in a phone interview.

She said the men on motorcycles hung out outside the family home, never removing their helmets.

"I was really concerned with what was happening," she said. "But strangely enough, the mysterious men disappeared these past two weeks."

It is not only the Burgos family that has been the target of apparent "surveillance activities," said Carl Ala, spokesperson of the KMP.

Ala said that since the KMP had spoken out against Jonas' disappearance, he and other officers of the group had been subjected to acts of harassment.

"Strange men would come to our office and pretend to ask about our activities," he said, adding that he and other KMP members also felt that their mobile phones were being bugged.

According to Ala, a source at the AFP told him that he was being monitored by the military, and that "he should take care of himself."

"If anything happens to us, we know whom to blame," he said. *With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz*

Our side not heard in 'dirty war' report, says AFP

From page A1

against leftist activists.

But Bacarro said the Human Rights Watch report was "one-sided in the sense that there ... were no indications that they asked the AFP [about its own findings]."

He said militant organizations were the only source of the information used by the group.

"It does not mean that if there are 800 cases, there are 800 soldiers to be prosecuted. That is not the case because all of these allegations will have to go through due process," Bacarro said.

The report said the "dirty war" included extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, and not a single soldier had been prosecuted.

The group said it had conducted more than 50 interviews with witnesses and relatives of victims of political killings, who pointed their fingers at security forces.

"There is strong evidence of a 'dirty war' by the Armed Forces against left-leaning activists and journalists," said Sophie Richardson, deputy Asia director of Human Rights Watch.

AFP not asked

She said the failure to prosecute soldiers or police suspected in the killings "shifts the spotlight of responsibility to the highest levels of the government."

"For the information of Human Rights Watch, there are a number of cases that the AFP human rights office is now monitoring relative to the probable participation of individuals belonging to the AFP, Bacarro also said.

"So we categorically deny the allegation that there is a dirty war being waged by the AFP, particularly against leftist groups."

Asked whether he found the group's assessment unfair, Bacarro replied in the affirmative.

He said the military had been collaborating with investigative bodies on top of probing the killings.

He accused militant organizations of waging black propaganda against the AFP by giving wrong information to international groups.

He said these groups had been falsely accusing the military of being behind the political killings.

"There is a possibility that some individuals belonging to the [AFP] could be involved, but it is not an AFP-sanctioned activity. It is not a policy to commit extrajudicial activities," Bacarro said.

All-out war

Human Rights Watch said it was "unable to uncover a single case of apparent extrajudicial killing in recent years for which a member of the Armed Forces was successfully prosecuted."

The killings "appeared to shift to a higher gear" after Ms Arroyo accused certain political parties of plotting her ouster last year, the group noted. Months later, it said, Ms Arroyo declared an all-out war against the communist New People's Army.

Individual targets

"None of the incidents investigated by Human Rights Watch involved anyone who was participating in an armed encounter with the military or was otherwise involved in NPA military operations. Each victim appears to have been individually targeted for killing," the group said.

Two preliminary reports from the Melo Commission and UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston also implicated soldiers in the killings.

Both Malacañang and the AFP have repeatedly denied that the killings were part of a state policy to defeat insurgents, and have blamed them on an internal purge within the underground communist movement.

The government has created special tribunals to handle the killings, but officials have complained that they could not prosecute cases unless witnesses overcame their fear and testified in court. *Reports from Christine O. Avendaño and AP*

Worldwide distrust of Bush, US deepens, international survey shows

From page A1

an territories surveyed in the international poll that involved 45,000 respondents.

"Anti-Americanism since 2002 has deepened, but it hasn't really widened," said Andrew Kohut, president of Pew and director of the Pew Global Attitudes Project.

"It has worsened among America's European allies and is very, very bad in the Muslim world. But there is still a favorable view of the United States in many African countries, as well as in 'New Europe' and the Far East," Kohut added.

In one measure of Bush's unpopularity, the poll shows he is less trusted on foreign policy than Russian President Vladimir Putin by allies Britain, Germany and Canada, even as faith in Putin has plummeted.

About half of the respondents in the United States say they have little or no trust in conduct of foreign affairs by either Bush or Putin.

Bush's sagging numbers partly reflect widespread opposition to the US war in Iraq.

In the United States and other countries surveyed, except for Israel, Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya, majority of the respondents not only want the United States to pull its troops out of Iraq "as soon as possible" but also seek a rapid end to the American and Nato military intervention in Afghanistan, now in its sixth year.

Even so, the United States is still seen favorably in most countries surveyed, including India, Japan, Italy, Israel and many countries in Africa. American culture and technology are widely admired, and many of the respondents believe a better life can be had by moving to the United States.

Increasing disapproval

"Even though there is a mixed view of the United States around the world, there is increasing disapproval of the principal cornerstones of our foreign policy," Kohut said.

Majorities in many countries reject the main planks of current US foreign policy and express distaste for American-style democracy, the survey found.

Wide-ranging majorities think America does not consider their interests when formulating foreign policy, worry that US customs are hurting their countries, and think America contributes to the gap between rich and poor nations.

Since the US-led war on terrorism five years ago, America's overall image has worsened. It has dropped from 75 percent favorable in Britain in 2002 to 51 percent now; from 60 percent to 30 percent in Germany; and from 64 percent to 56 percent in Mexico.

Views of the United States have also slipped in Russia, Indonesia, Canada, China and India. The United States is seen favorably by 9 percent in Nato ally Turkey, the lowest of any country measured; 13 percent in the Palestinian territories; and by 15 percent in Pakistan and 20 percent in Jordan, both US partners in the war on terror.

Views on Russia, China

Though Putin is popular in Russia, his worldwide image has declined. Only in China, Ukraine and a handful of African nations did most express trust in Putin's foreign policy.

Views of Russia are mixed, with slightly favorable opinions in the United States, China, India and South Korea. Majorities in most European countries express worries about reliance on Russian energy, following last year's Russian cutoff of natural gas to Ukraine during a clash over prices.

Although more than half the nations polled have positive views of China, its image has widely worsened. China is seen most favorably by countries in Africa and Latin America, where its trade has recently grown, and in Asia, though two-thirds in regional rival Japan view it negatively.

Majorities in most countries think China's economic growth is good for them, with concerns expressed in Western Europe and India. Unease with Beijing's military was wider spread, with majorities in most countries surveyed expressing worries—notably neighbors Japan and South Korea, much of Europe and the United States.

Negative views of Iran have intensified, including in some Muslim countries, the survey found, and respondents in almost all countries surveyed expressed overwhelming opposition to acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran.

Other findings

Other significant findings of the international survey:

- Concern about global warming has increased dramatically in the last five years. Most respondents in the global survey agree that the environment is in trouble and most blame the United States and, to a much more limited degree, China, according to the survey.
- Thirty-seven percent of respondents in the United States consider environment as a major concern—less than in any other advanced nation surveyed.
- The spread of nuclear weapons and ethnic hatred are the two most often cited worries in the Middle East. For sub-Saharan Africa, it is AIDS and other diseases, and the gap between rich and poor.
- While views of American people have gotten worse in many countries, they are generally better liked than the United States itself.

Face-to-face interviews

The polling was conducted in April and May, in most countries by face-to-face interviews, some by telephone and some using both methods.

The number of people interviewed in each country ranged from 500 to 3,142, with the margin of sampling error ranging from plus or minus 2 to 4 percentage points. Most of the surveys were national, though in eight nations—Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, Pakistan, China, India, Ivory Coast and South Africa—they were mostly or completely urban. *Reports from AP and New York Times News Service*

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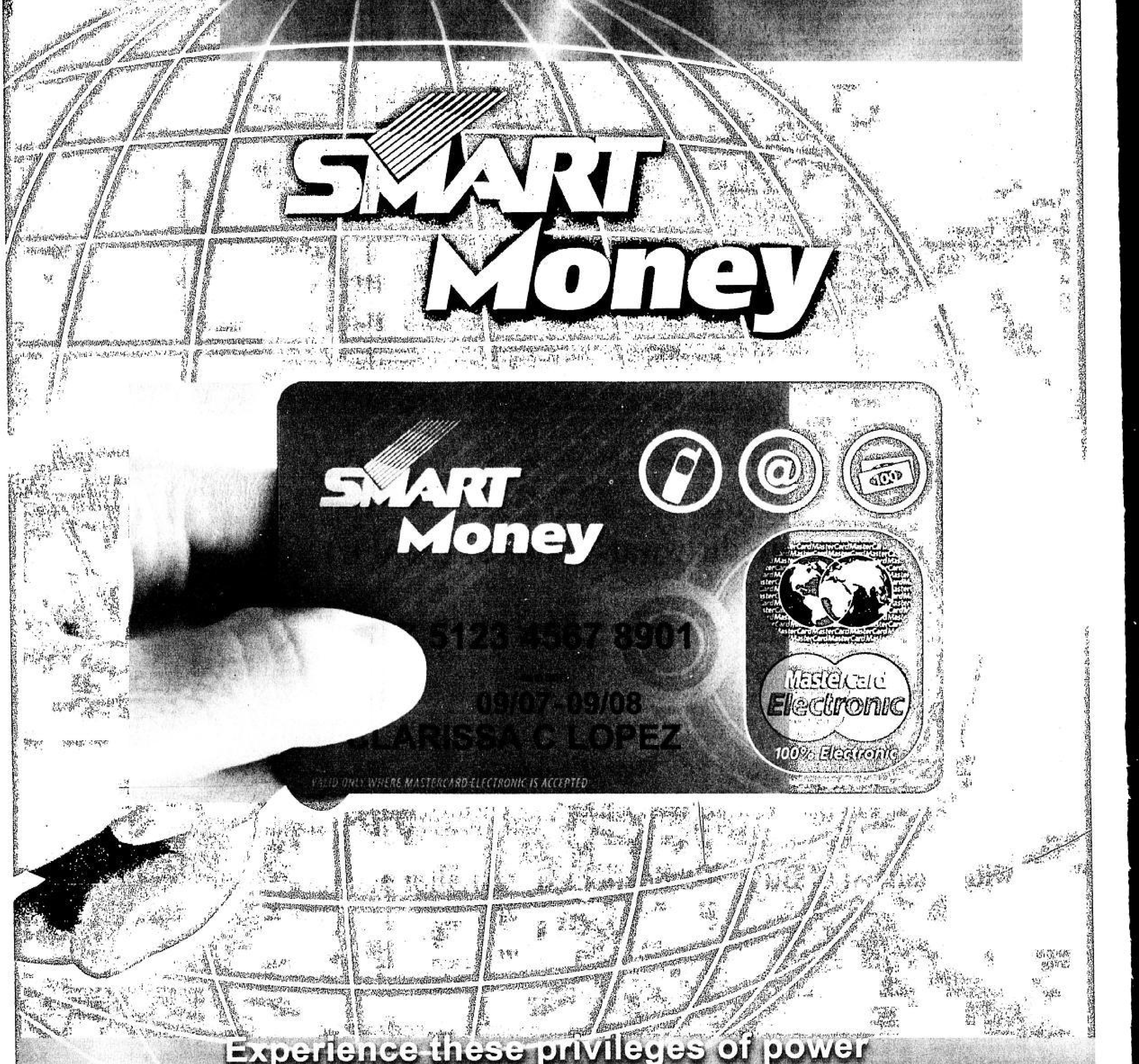
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Cops raid old shabu site

44 held in Pasig bust vs revival of drugs network

By Kristine L. Alave

OVER 40 PEOPLE WERE TAKEN IN FOR questioning when police raided the former site of the so-called "shabu supermarket" in Pasig City said to be owned by suspected drug lord Amin Imam Boratong yesterday morning.

A man was injured during the operation when he shot at police operatives who returned fire. Alfredo Cajeda, 30, sustained a wound in his right leg and was rushed to the Pasig City General Hospital.

"It was part of our efforts to nip the bud and prevent the resurrection of the shabu tiangge," Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, Eastern Police District director, said in a phone interview.

In an operation that echoed the raid in February 2006, about 90 heavily armed EPD operatives and members of the Pasig City police raided houses and shanties in the Mapayapa compound at Barangay Sto. Tomas, at about 9:30 a.m.

Boratong, who is now detained at the National Bureau of Investigation, was arrested in 2006.

The 2,000-square meter Mapayapa compound was said to be the center of his P900 million drug network which the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force of the Philippine National Police dismantled following last year's raid. Over 300 people were arrested in the operation.

This time around, the operatives rounded up 45 men in the area.

Ticman said they conducted the operation to prevent a new drug network from rising in the area.

He added that they have been receiving reports that the compound, reportedly owned by Boratong, had become a meeting place for members of his illegal drug network, which, in its heydays, allegedly controlled the supply of shabu (metamphetamine hydrochloride) in the eastern part of the metropolis.

"We have received information that there was a guerrilla-type of operations there," Ticman said.

The police official noted that the operators of the compound were "remnant members" of Boratong's drug network, adding that since his arrest, his former followers have started small-time operations.

Members of the Boratong gang known to the police like a certain "Mac-Mac," one of his suspected henchmen, were also sighted in the area, he added.

Ticman explained that the transactions in the compound were at the "retail" level. No one was making shabu in the area yet, he added.

In his report, Pasig City police chief, Senior Supt. Frank Uyami, said police recovered a cal. .38 revolver from the site as well as two plastic sachets with suspected shabu and one brick of marijuana.

Police also recovered drug paraphernalia such as five pieces of lighters, used aluminum foil and two improvised water pipes.

Uyami said they "invited" over 40 people for questioning. Of the men who were rounded up, Uyami said they would file charges against only two suspects, namely Mario Duran and Michael Illut, for drug law violations.

Cajeda, whom Ticman described as a "con-

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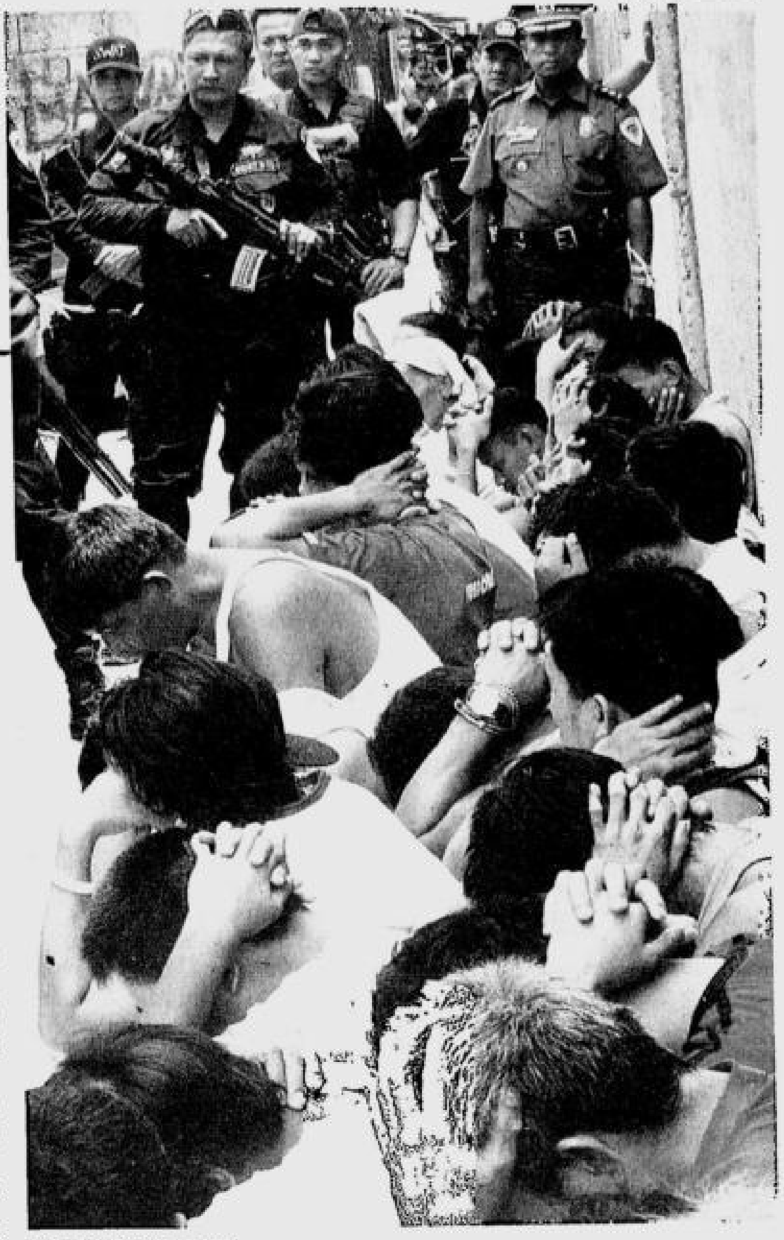
JOAN BONDOC

POLICEMEN guard persons rounded up yesterday at the former site of the Pasig shabu market.

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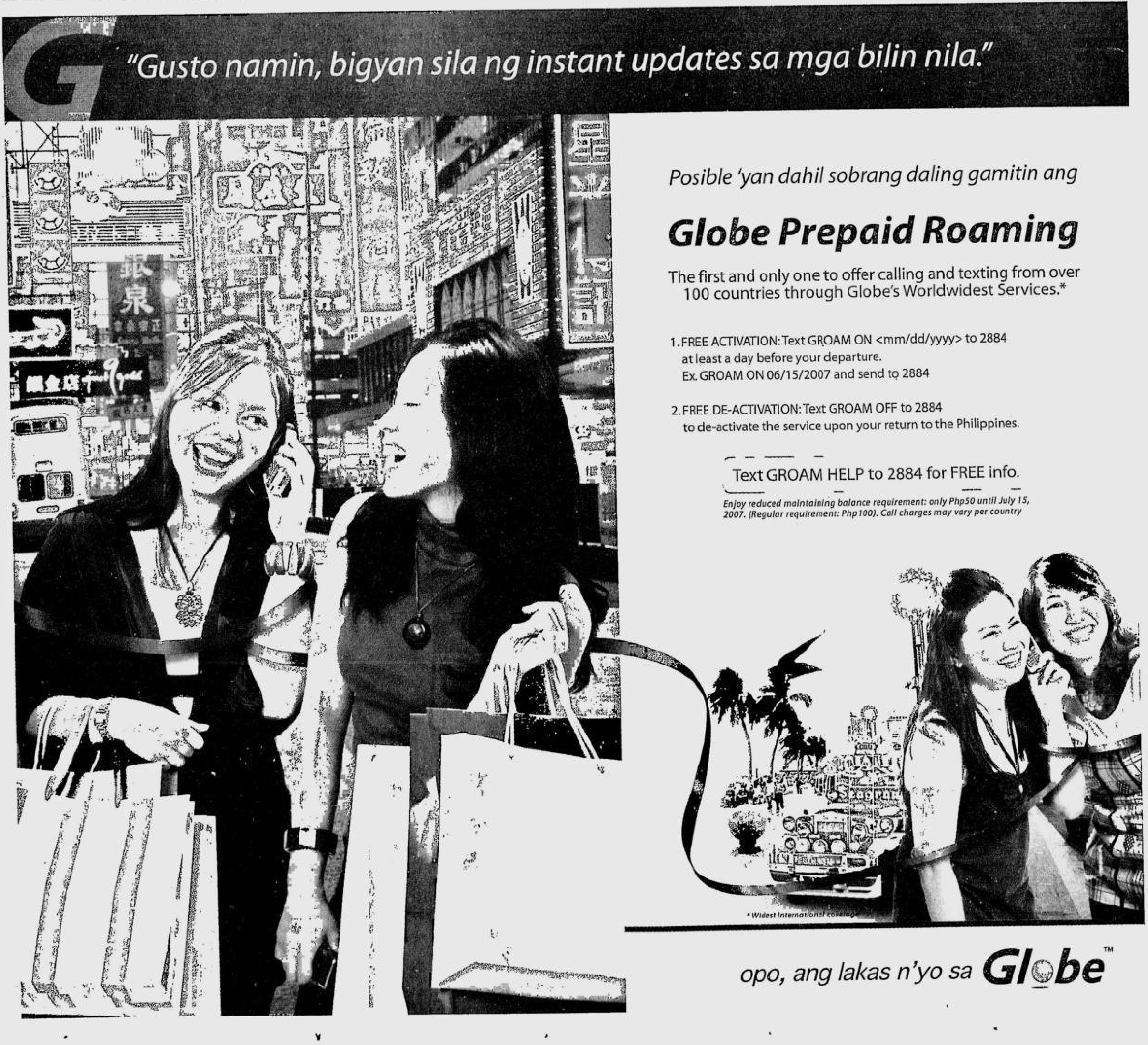
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Jeepney fare back to P7.50 in Metro starting July

By Riza T. Olchondra

COMMUTERS SHOULD START paying more attention to their loose change.

Starting next week, jeepney passengers will start paying P7.50 again as minimum fare according to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) after a hearing yesterday.

According to the agency, the fare hike will apply to passenger jeepneys plying routes in Metro Manila and in Central and Southern Luzon. No date, however, has been set for the implementation of the fare increase, although LTFRB Chair Thompson Lantion said it could be on July 2 or 3, depending on the agency's decision.

The LTFRB rolled back to P7 the minimum fare for passenger jeeps last December as a Christmas gift to commuters in the three areas.

Lantion said they granted the petition of several transport groups to restore the minimum fare to P7.50 because of the recent increases in the prices of diesel, spare parts and basic goods.

In their petition before the LTFRB, the leaders of transport groups said that when the fare slash was implemented last December, the agreement was that it would be in effect for only 45 days. They noted that jeepney passengers have been enjoying the discounted fare for over six months now.

With the adjustment in the minimum fare, the 20 percent discount for the elderly and students will still be implemented, the LTFRB said.

No teary goodbyes for ex-councilors

By Allison W. Lopez

LAUGHTER, NOT TEARS, FILLED the Manila City Council session hall as outgoing councilors delivered their farewell speeches yesterday morning.

While the councilors thanked their colleagues and the presiding officer, Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, for his "comical one-liners" during their sessions, they also gave the audience a taste of their own humor.

"Thank you for giving us the chance to give what we call 'talutatorian' speeches," said Cita Astals, referring to her failed bid for the vice mayoral seat in the May 14 elections.

A councilor of the 5th District who served three terms, Astals, a show business personality before she joined politics, admitted that she suffered culture shock and had to learn the ropes when she first assumed office.

"For a long time, they wouldn't accept a woman as a councilor in District 5 so I had to work twice as hard *kasi baka wala nang mahalal na babae* (because no women might get elected anymore). But now, we have three women councilors," she said.

Astals gave this advice to new councilors: Read all the ordinances being passed by the council. "Even if it's very technical, read it. Just ask for help. *Huwag kayong paloloko* (don't allow yourself to be fooled)," she said.

Astals also praised Councilor and now Vice Mayor-elect Isko Moreno, her colleague in the council and show business, saying: "*Itaas niya ang bandera ng mga artista* (He raised the flag of artists)."

Moreno earlier left the session hall for another commitment but not before delivering his own address.

"*Pipilitin kong maging isang ama sa inyong lahat* (I will try my best to be a father to all of you)," he told the councilors.

Moreno also expressed his gratitude to Lacuna for choosing him as his running mate although an unnamed official "clad in flowers" had asked Lacuna to pick someone else.

Lacuna ran for mayor but lost.

The three-term councilor of Tondo also asked the new members of the council to "create friends, not enemies," and not to be afraid to ask questions like he did when he first won a seat in the council.

Borgy asks for more time to answer raps

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE LAWYER OF COMMERCIAL model Borgy Manotoc, who figured in a bar brawl in Taguig City last April, yesterday asked the court to give his client more time to answer the charge of serious physical injuries filed against him.

At the preliminary investigation held at the Taguig City Prosecutor's Office, lawyer Abraham Espejo said Manotoc received the subpoena only two days before yesterday's proceedings.

Manotoc, grandson of former strongman Ferdinand Marcos, whose real name is Fernando Martin Manotoc, was not present in court.

"Due process requires that we should be given an opportunity to examine the affidavit and submit a counter-affidavit. We will do so on July 10," Espejo said.

The charge against Manotoc was filed by Carlo Brown, 22, who accused the Marcos scion and his friends of beating him up outside the Embassy Bar on April 10.

Brown said that before the incident, he had talked to Manotoc's girlfriend, Ornusa Cadness. He sustained nine cuts on the head and was hospitalized at the Makati Medical Center. His family formally filed the charges against Manotoc on May 9, a month after the incident.

The day after the supposed brawl, Manotoc visited the Taguig City police station and issued an apology although he did specifically mention Brown.

Espejo, however, clarified that the apology was not an admission of guilt on the part of his client.

The lawyer said they have several witnesses who will testify that the model was not part of the group of men that beat up Brown.

Herminio Banico, Brown's lawyer, said they have identified two more of Brown's assailants, apart from Manotoc and a certain DJ Malaya who works at the Embassy bar.

Bodyguard of stars' doctors reveals death threats

By DJ Yap

"DOCTORS TO THE STARS' Manny and Pie Calayan have been getting death threats from a caller claiming to be a member of the New People's Army, the couple's bodyguard reported to the police on Wednesday.

The man, who started making the menacing calls in early June, threatened to kill the Calayans unless they paid P1 million in revolutionary taxes every month, Jilven Siaton, 28, told police.

The couple own the Calayan Surgicenter, a cosmetic surgery and dermatological center, whose clients include celebrities and famous personalities.

Siaton said the man, who identified himself as "Ka Terry," made the first call on June 4 at about 2 p.m. to the Calayans' clinic at Unit 1701 Medical Plaza at the corner of Amorsolo and Dela Rosa Streets.

Since then, the caller had been calling the Calayans not only in the Makati clinic but also the beauty center branch at Unit 7 De Venecia Tower, at the corner of Scout Santiago and Timog Avenue in Quezon City, the bodyguard said.

Siaton, who also serves as the Calayans' personal driver, said Ka Terry, using foul language, said he was following the couple's movements and knew their schedules well.

"If they don't pay up, you know what will happen," he quoted the caller as saying. The suspect also threatened to harm Siaton unless the demand was met.

The threats were reported to the Makati Central Police Headquarters on Wednesday afternoon.

Siaton said he and the Calayans were forced to call the attention of the police after they sensed that they were being watched.

A desk officer at the Makati police station, however, said the blotter entry was only for "reference purposes" and not for investigation.

"But if they want the police to conduct a proper investigation, we will do so," he said.

11 Manila traffic cops relieved from posts

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REgional Police Office yesterday ordered the relief of 11 Manila traffic officials for their alleged involvement in extortion activities.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Varilla, NCRPO chief, identified the officials as Senior Supt. Elmer Jamias, unit commander of the Manila Police District-Traffic Enforcement Office in Port Area, Manila and 10 of his men.

Relieved along with Jamias were Senior Insp. Benjamin Cosme, Inspectors Rizal Tungcol and Romulo Tamayo, SP04 Daniel dela Cruz, SP02s Dionisio Sagun, Cesar Santiago, Arnel Pabines and Ernesto Castillo, P03s Ruben Cosme and Remy Baloners, all assigned at the MPD-TEO.

They were reassigned to the Regional Headquarters Support Group in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig. Jamias was reassigned to the MPD headquarters on UN Avenue.

Varilla said he issued the order after hundreds of tricycle drivers held a rally in front of the MPD-TEO on Tuesday. They claimed that several traffic officials were extorting from them a weekly "terminal fee" ranging from P3,000 to P3,500."

Sought for comment, Jamias said: "There should be due process first. We're willing to face an investigation and answer whatever complaint is filed against us."

METROBRIEFS

Junk shop owner may face charges

THE PASIG City government is considering filing charges against the owner of the junk shop where the chlorine spill occurred on Monday, the chief of the city environment and natural resources office said. Raquel Naciongayo, Pasig City environment chief, said the Office of the Mayor might file negligence charges against Roberto Camelon, the owner of a junk shop where a chlorine leak occurred that led to the hospitalization of 27 people, including infants and pregnant women. She said the shop, which had been ordered closed, violated safety and chemical disposal regulations. Naciongayo noted that the Mayor's Office wants the junk shop owner held liable for the environmental damages and for the expenses incurred by 27 people who were rushed to the Pasig City General Hospital on Monday morning after inhaling the irritating and pungent chlorine fumes. ***Kristine L. Alave***

Abusive drivers warned

CALOOCAN Mayor Enrico "Recom" Echiverri yesterday warned a tricycle and pedicab drivers that he has not authorized them to raise their fares. He issued the warning after receiving complaints, mostly from students and parents, about drivers who overcharge their passengers. According to the mayor, violators would have their vehicles impound and their permits revoked. According to the local Tricycle and Pedicab Regulatory Services, tricycle drivers should only charge P6 for the first kilometer while pedicab passengers should pay only P4 for the first 500 meters. ***Nancy C. Carvajal***

Benefit party for kids

MEMBERS of the De La Salle University's Women Basketball Team will launch today "Project: Green Light," a benefit party for the team as well as the Philippine General Hospital Child Protection Unit. Caring for mistreated youth, the PGH-CPU is one of the government's projects that aid the less fortunate. The team will be rounding up students, faculty and alumni for support. The event will be held at The Temple Bar and Restaurant in Greenbelt 2, Makati, from 10 p.m. onwards. For more inquiries, please contact Eventscape Manila at 897-2472, 897-2676 or fax 895-7417.

Cops raid old shabu site

From page A25

tact person" and a "ranking member" of the Boratong syndicate, also stands to face charges, too, police said.

Ticman said there is a possibility that Boratong's relatives, including his wife Memie, may have had a hand in the new operation.

Memie, who reportedly had taken over the Boratong syndicate, is facing an arrest warrant for allegedly masterminding the death of former GMA 7 informant German Colisao in 2005.

Witness

Samer Palao, the government's main witness against Boratong, said his former cohorts were behind the "revival" of the shabu market. "*Si Amin pa rin 'yun*," he said.

A map of the compound shown by Uyami and Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio, said the lot and the surrounding houses were owned by Jamil Boratong, Hadja Saima Alabe Boratong and Ibrahim Daluma Boratong. The first two are Boratong's siblings while the third is his father, Eusebio said.

The three were not arrested in the raid but Uyami said they received information that they were involved in the new drug operation.

Eusebio, meanwhile, hailed the police for the operation.

The mayor, who was accused of destroying the evidence when he ordered its demolition just after the raid, denied that his family has links with drug syndicates.

He also berated city hall employees who were caught in the compound, which included members of the city government's traffic and parking department and law enforcers.

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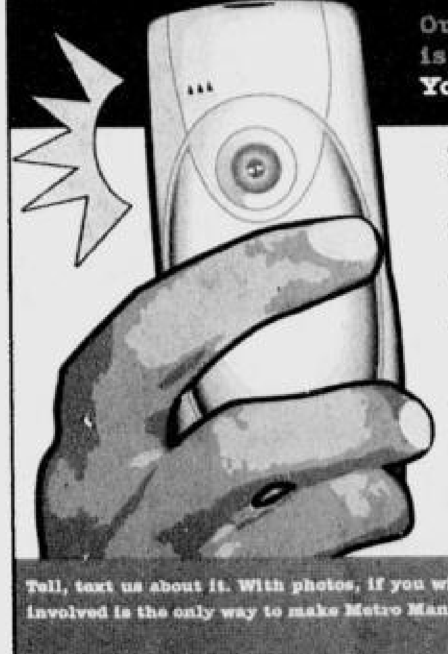

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Threats, intense opposition to US immigration bill

WASHINGTON—THE THREAT came in the weekend mail.

The recipient was Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., who has been a leading advocate of the proposed legislation for changing the immigration system. His offices in Washington and across Florida have received thousands of angry messages in recent weeks, but nothing as alarming as that letter he received at his home.

"I'll turn it over to Capitol police, and we'll go from there," said Martinez, who declined to elaborate on the nature of the threat.

On the eve of a crucial vote on the immigration bill, the Capitol Hill switchboard was deluged again Wednesday as thousands of citizens called their members of Congress—and, perhaps, someone else's—to weigh in. Not since the impeachment of President Clinton, several Senate aides said, have the lines been so jammed by a single issue.

Republicans who support the immigration bill are facing unusually intense opposition from conservative groups fighting it. This is among the first times, several of them said, that they have felt the full brunt of an advocacy machine built around conservative talk radio and cable television programs that have long buttressed Republican efforts to defeat Democrats and their policies.

While the majority of the telephone calls and faxes, letters and e-mail messages have been civil, aides to several senators said, the correspondence has taken a menacing tone in several cases.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who is undecided on the final immigration bill, said his office received a telephone call recently that "made a threat about knowing where I lived." Burr passed it along to the authorities. "There were enough specifics to raise some alarm bells," he said.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who is one of the architects of the immigration overhaul, said he also had received threats in telephone calls and letters to his office. Graham said several other senators had told him privately that they also received similar messages.

The immigration legislation, a priority of President Bush's, has divided the Republican Party. For the past month, no other issue has been debated as passionately among conservatives as this bill, which calls for the most sweeping changes to immigration law in two decades.

At the heart of the opposition rests conservative hosts on talk radio and cable television, which often are a muscular if untamed piece of the Republican message machine.

Several senators said Wednesday that they did not care to be identified speaking critically of the broadcasters, fearing the same conservative backlash that befell Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., this month when he declared: "Talk radio is running America. We have to deal with that problem." *NYT*

Bombs kill 25 in Baghdad, 3 British soldiers in Basra

BAGHDAD—A CAR BOMB KILLED 25 people and wounded 40 on Thursday at an intersection in Baghdad where minibuses pick up and drop off passengers, Iraqi police said.

In the southern city of Basra, a roadside bomb killed three British soldiers and seriously wounded another in the early hours of Thursday, the British military said.

The soldiers were on foot at the time of the blast in southeastern Basra, spokesperson Major David Gell said.

Police in Baghdad said the car bomb exploded in the mainly Shiite district of Bayaa. Around 40 vehicles were destroyed by the bomb, which went off during the morning rush hour.

The Bayaa area in southwest Baghdad has been a frequent target of car bombs blamed on Sunni Islamist al-Qaida.

Tens of thousands of US and Iraqi troops are engaged in an offensive against al-Qaida in an attempt to take down its car bomb networks, which have killed and maimed thousands of Iraqis.

"It was a horrible explosion. Many, many people have been killed," said witness Aqeel Kadhim, saying pickup trucks and ambulances rushed to take away the dead and wounded.

One local journalist said he had seen at least 20 bodies.

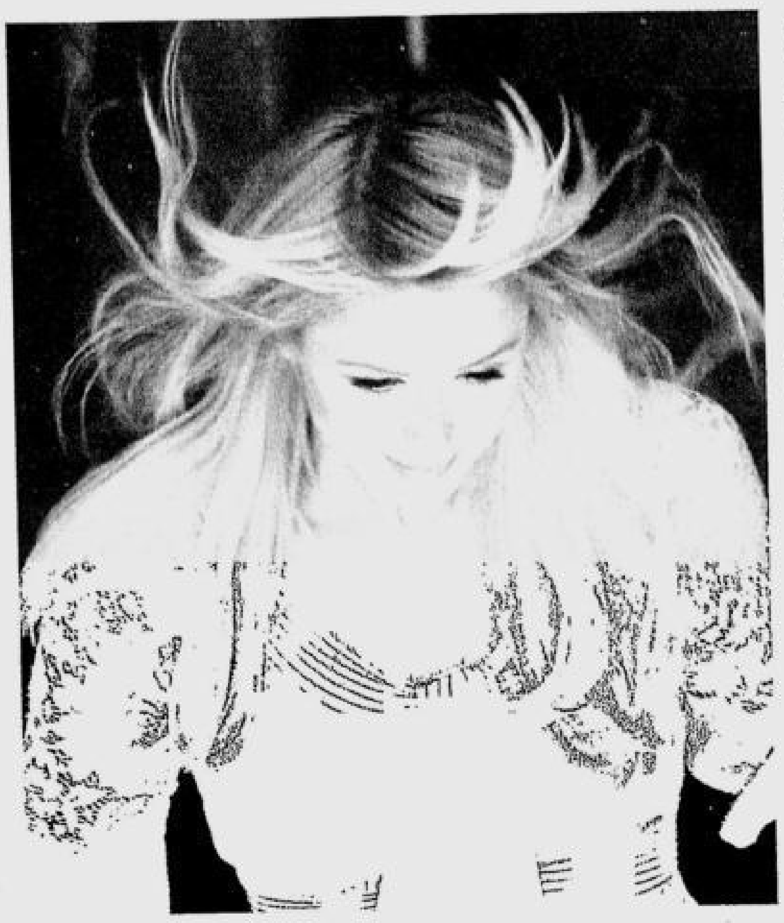
The blast dug a huge crater where the minibuses parked.

Residents could be seen searching the burned out minibuses for bodies. Corpses, some charred beyond recognition, lay twisted on the ground.

Mortar bombs also hit the commercial Shorja district in central Baghdad, killing at least two people and wounding 14, police said.

Gell said the British soldiers were part of a routine convoy heading out of Basra and had dismounted from their armored vehicles in the Al Mutahya district.

More than 150 British soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003. *Reuters*



PARIS Hilton departs CNN studios following her hourlong interview with veteran CNN anchor Larry King June 27 in Hollywood, California after her three-week spell in jail. AFP

Chastened Paris Hilton vows to ditch hard-partying ways

LOS ANGELES—PARIS HILTON told CNN's Larry King she would never again drink and drive and that her time in jail was "a timeout in life."

In her first televised interview since leaving jail, a demure Hilton said Wednesday that even though she's an Aquarius and "we're social people," her time behind bars taught her "there's a lot more important things in life" than partying.

"I'm frankly sick of it," Hilton said, with loose, reblonded locks and camera-ready makeup. "I've been going out for a long time now. Yeah, it's fun, but it's not going to be the mainstay of my life anymore."

She said her incarceration was "a very traumatic experience" that inspired a "journey" of self-discovery that she intends to continue.

Hilton was jailed after being caught twice driving with a suspended license while on probation for reckless driving.

"I'm glad it happened in a way because it's changed my life forever," she said in the pre-taped, hourlong interview. "I feel stronger than ever and, I don't know, I feel like this is a lesson in disguise."

The hotel heiress spent about 23 days in custody before she was sprung Tuesday. Hilton passed the time, she said, considering "what was important and what I want to do."

Among those plans? Using her fame to bring attention to social causes rather than the newest Hollywood nightspot.

"I feel like being in the spotlight, I have a platform where I can raise awareness for so many great causes," she said. "I want to help raise money for kids and for breast cancer and multiple sclerosis."

Hilton said a big misconception about her is that she lives off her family's money.

"I completely disagree with that," she said. "I work very hard. I run a business. I've had a book on The New York Times bestsellers list. I'm on the fifth season of my TV show. I did an album. I do movies." *AP*

Blair, MidEast troubleshooter

BLAIR leaving Buckingham Palace after tendering his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II June 27. AFP

UNITED NATIONS—TONY BLAIR WAS Wednesday named special envoy of the Middle East peace quartet shortly after stepping down as British prime minister and tasked with spearheading efforts to create a Palestinian state.

"Following discussions among the principals, today the quartet dealing with the Middle East is announcing the appointment of Tony Blair as the quartet representative," UN spokesperson Michele Montas announced.

The quartet—the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and the United States—has been trying since 2003 to implement a "roadmap" for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

But the three-stage blueprint that should have led to the creation of a Palestinian state living side by side in peace with Israel by 2005 has since languished.

Blair's new role on the world stage was announced simultaneously here and in Washington shortly after he stepped down as prime minister after a decade in power.

The post of quartet representative had been vacant since former World Bank chair James Wolfensohn left in frustration in May 2006.

President George W. Bush immediately welcomed the appointment of his close ally to the post. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Britain's Brown to name senior ministers

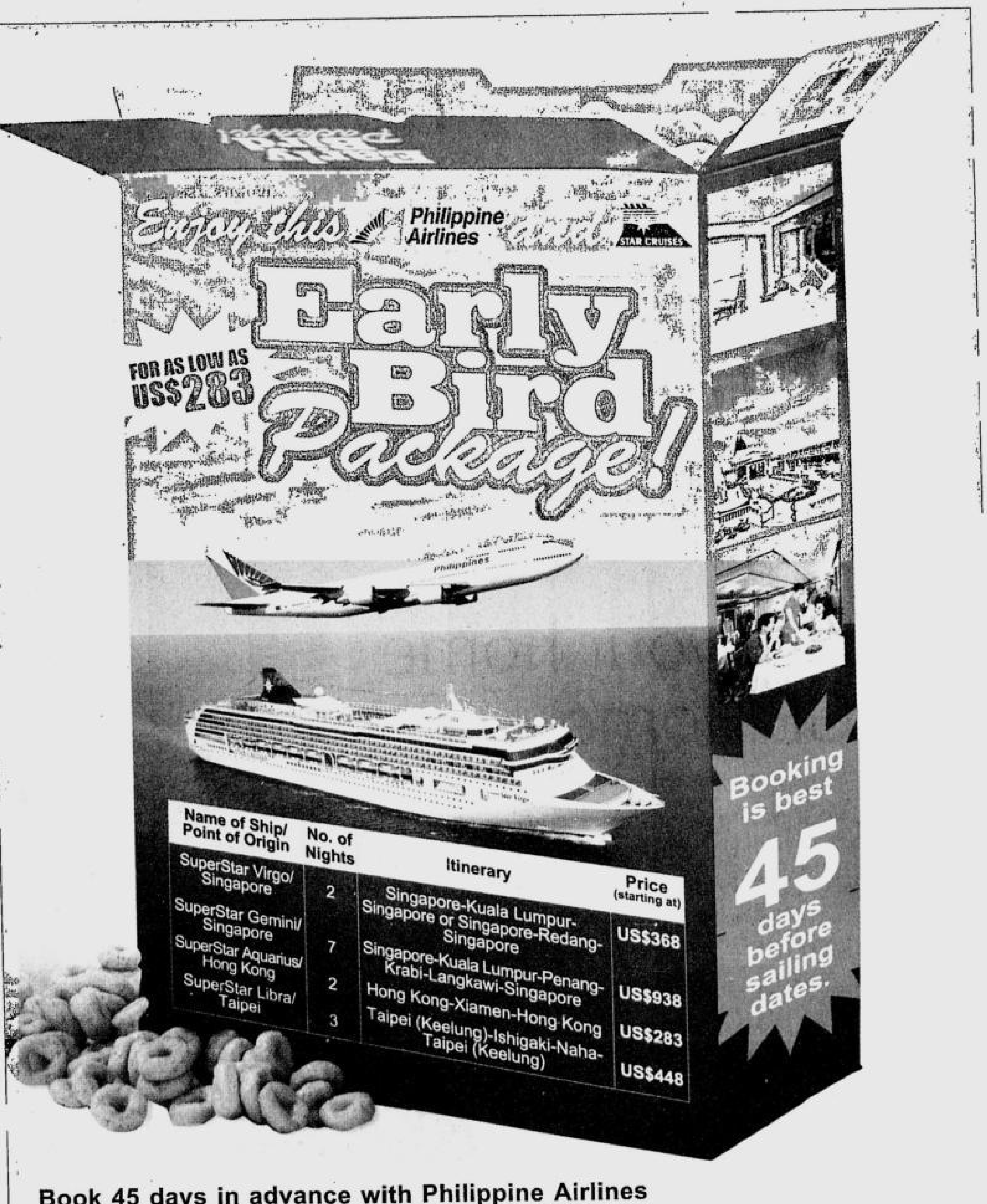
LONDON—Gordon Brown spent his first full day as British prime minister Thursday conducting a wholesale shake-up of senior government posts, with new faces set for the ministries of finance and foreign affairs. An announcement was due on Brown's Cabinet inner circle with many figures who featured prominently in his predecessor Tony Blair's administration likely to be replaced. Brown has pledged to form "a new government with new priorities" that would be a force for change in Britain. With many political commentators predicting a break with the Blair era, if not in substance but style, focus Thursday was on his reshuffle with rewards expected for his most loyal and trusted supporters. In the key roles, Alistair Darling, Blair's former trade and industry secretary, was tipped as a virtual certainty for the post of chancellor of the exchequer (finance minister) that Brown vacated on his promotion. *AFP*

Senate panel issues subpoenas to White House

WASHINGTON—The Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday issued subpoenas to the White House, Vice President Dick Cheney's office and the justice department after what the panel's chair called "stonewalling of the worst kind" of efforts to investigate the National Security Agency's policy of wiretapping without warrants. The move put Senate Democrats squarely on a course they had until now avoided, setting the stage for a showdown with the Bush administration over one of the most contentious issues arising from the White House's campaign against terrorism. Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., the chair of the committee, said the subpoenas seek documents that could shed light on the legal basis used by the administration to justify the wiretapping, as well as on disputes within the government over its legality. In addition, the panel is seeking materials on issues related to the wiretapping, including those concerning the relationship between the Bush administration and several unidentified telecommunications companies that aided the NSA eavesdropping program. *NYT*

Concert birthday bash for the late Princess Diana

LONDON—Princess Diana's fun-loving and unpretentious spirit is to be brought back to life at a star-studded concert in London on Sunday that will serve as a posthumous birthday bash and tribute from her sons. Diana, who died in a car crash in a Paris tunnel 10 years ago in August, would have been 46 years old on July 1, the date of the charity "Concert for Diana" at London's new 90,000-seat Wembley Stadium. It would have been a birthday party she would have loved, her sons hope. Performing at the event will be the princess's favorite stars like Duran Duran and Supertramp as well as Sir Elton John—who played a special rewritten version of "Candle in the Wind" at Diana's 1997 funeral. Prince William, 24, told the BBC that he and his brother Prince Harry, 22, believed that a concert was a more fitting tribute to their mother—dubbed "the people's princess" by Tony Blair—than just a church memorial service. *AFP*



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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel launches offensives in Gaza, kills 12

GAZA CITY—TWELVE PALESTINIANS DIED ON Wednesday as Israel launched twin offensives in the Gaza Strip, triggering the deadliest violence since Hamas fighters overran the territory 12 days ago.

The violence came amid a renewed push for peace and the naming of outgoing British Prime Minister Tony Blair as the special envoy of the four major powers mediating Middle East peace.

Israeli tanks and bulldozers rolled into Gaza City and the southern town of Khan Yunis in incursions launched overnight that swiftly sparked clashes with Palestinian fighters armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

An air strike was called in near the Karni crossing between Gaza and Israel after gunmen were spotted approaching Israeli forces.

The Army said the activity was against "terror threats" in Gaza, where Hamas fighters overran security forces loyal to Western-backed Palestinian President Abbas on June 15, effectively creating an Islamic enclave on Israel's doorstep.

Medics said 11 Palestinians were killed, including eight fighters in the armed Islamic Jihad, Hamas and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades linked to Abbas's Fatah party. Three civilians were killed, including a 12-year-old boy.

Meanwhile a member of the Islamic Jihad militant group, Zakaria al-Tatar, who was injured in an Israeli air raid on Monday, died of his injuries Wednesday, medics said.

An Apache helicopter gunship swooped to the sound of heavy shooting and periodic explosions in eastern Gaza City while Israeli soldiers patrolled rooftops and Palestinian fighters ran through the streets, witnesses said.

At least 40 Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers were injured.

"We have a number of gunmen who were identified by our forces there (in Shujaiya area) and fired at in different incidents," an Army spokesperson said before the operation in eastern Gaza City ended and Israeli soldiers withdrew.

In the south, two fighters from the Al-Quds Brigades and Hamas's armed Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades were killed in clashes with Israelis in Khan Yunis.

"In the southern Gaza Strip, Palestinians fired antitank missiles and opened fire at the IDF forces there which are operating against terror threats. During exchange of fire, the force identified hitting two," the Army said.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad confirmed that their fighters had fired rocket-propelled grenades at Israeli troops.

The violence came as envoys pressed a diplomatic agenda after Abbas met Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert face-to-face at a summit in Egypt on Monday for the first time since the Hamas seizure of Gaza.

While the international community is seeking to further isolate Hamas—regarded as a terror group by Israel and the West—Arab leaders are pushing for reconciliation between the Islamists and their secular rivals in Abbas's Fatah party. *AFP*

Israel leader may escape rape charges

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL'S DISgraced outgoing head of state Moshe Katsav looks set to escape a looming rape indictment on Thursday by being offered an expected plea bargain from Attorney General Menachem Mazuz.

The justice ministry confirmed that Mazuz, who has been deliberating whether to press charges against Katsav for a string of sex and abuse of power allegations, will hold a news conference at 11:00 a.m. in Jerusalem.

A spokesperson said only that Mazuz would address the latest development in the Katsav case, a scandal which has gripped Israel for months and forced the father of five to suspend himself from duties as president last January.

Local media were rife with reports that Katsav would accept an plea bargain offer that would see the most serious sexual offenses, including rape, dropped from the charge sheet.

Instead he would be charged with "an indecent act," sexual harassment and harassment of a witness, public radio reported.

The agreement could be signed as early as Thursday afternoon, with the radio saying Katsav may be reluctant to admit to actions he says he did not commit, but that he wants to spare his family further suffering.

The deal would see Katsav faced with a suspended prison sentence and a fine, where he could have been jailed for 16 years. *AFP*

Pope allows churches to revive old Latin Mass

POPE BENEDICT XVI HAS SIGNED a document that would allow more churches to adopt the old Latin Mass that largely faded from use during the 1960s, when the groundbreaking Second Vatican Council opened the door to worship in the local vernacular, Vatican officials say.

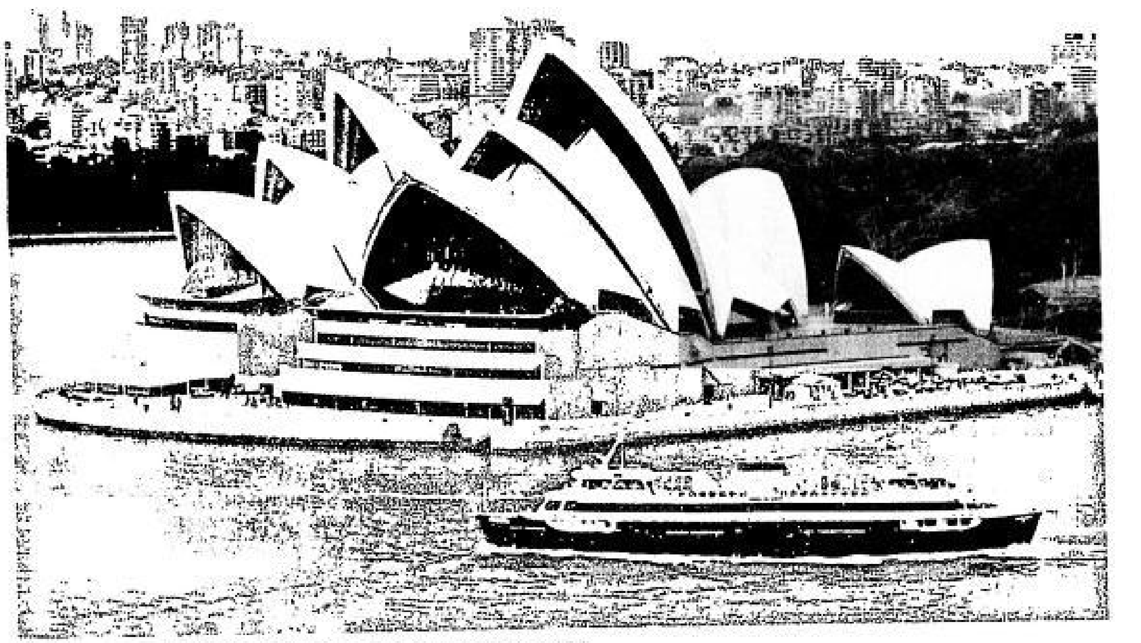
The revival of what is known as the Tridentine Mass has long been promoted by Roman Catholic traditionalists, who say it is more moving, contemplative and historically authentic than the modern Mass.

But Benedict has been hearing resistance from cardinals and bishops, many of them in Europe, who argue that the change would divide the church by promulgating two very different official rites.

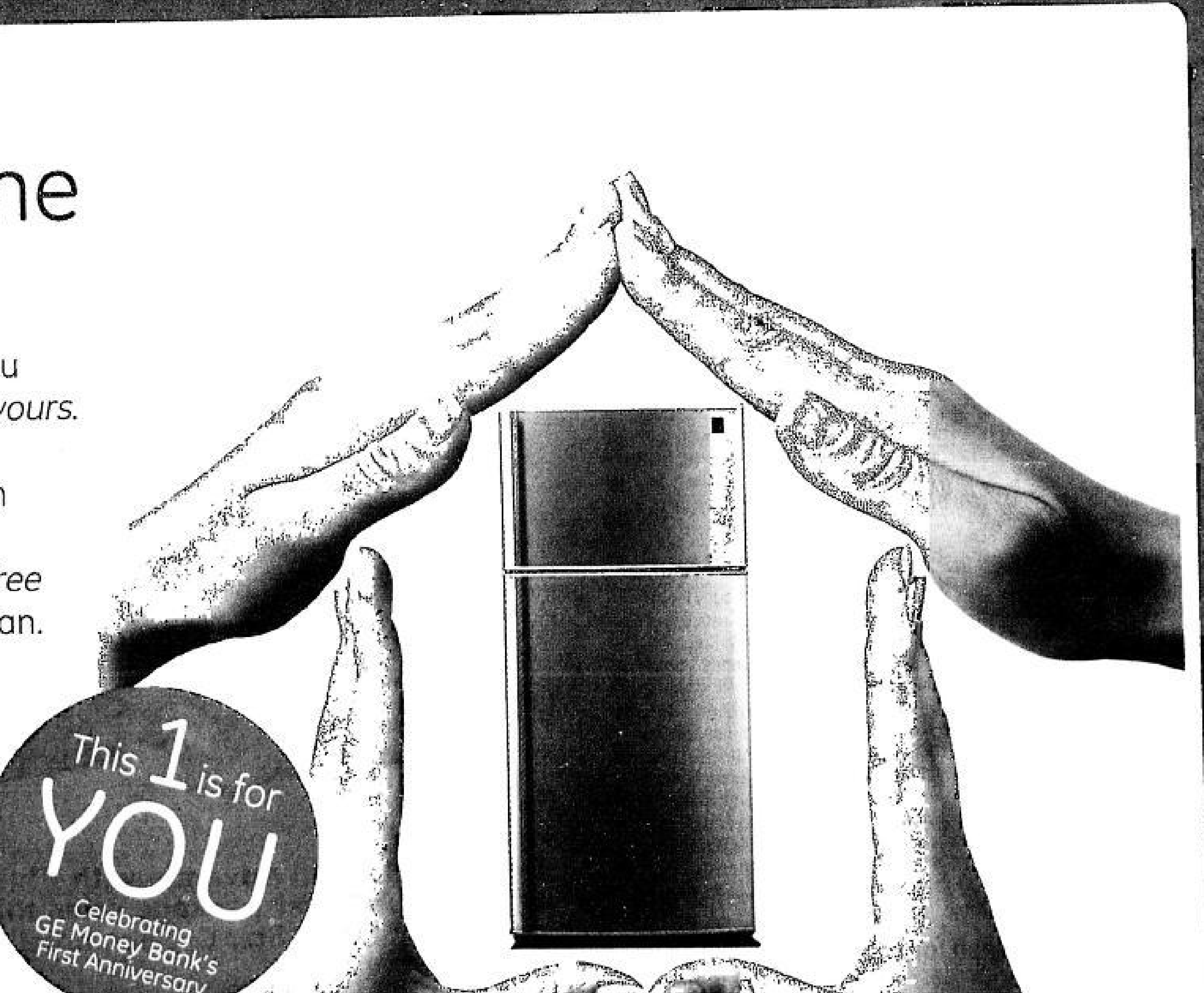
They say it could create rifts in smaller parishes that cannot agree which Mass to use, and would burden already overburdened members of the clergy, many of whom do not know Latin and were never trained to perform the older rite's more complex choreography.

In the Tridentine Mass, the priest faces away from the congregation and prays, sometimes in a whisper, in Latin, a language unfamiliar to most of the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics. The Vatican II reformers intended the modern Mass to be more accessible by allowing the priest to face the congregation and to involve the worshipers in prayer and song, mostly in their native language but including some passages in Latin.

Catholic experts agree that the debate is not merely about ritual, but about the legacy of the Second Vatican Council, which met from 1962 to 1965. *NYT*



AMONG LATEST WORLD HERITAGE SITE
A ferry sails past the iconic Sydney Opera House, June 28, in Sydney, Australia. The structure was named a world cultural site Thursday, along with the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine in Japan, Parthian Fortresses of Nisa in Turkmenistan, and The Red Fort Complex in Delhi, India, after the Unesco's World Heritage Committee meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand. AP



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Aces try to slam door on Beermen tonight

Red Bull, Talk 'N Text break semis tie

ALASKA'S Willie Miller and SMB's Willie Wilson dispute possession in their PBA game Wednesday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

ROSELL ELLIS IS AN IMPORT WHO WORKS his butt out game in and out for Alaska.

What he doesn't need at this point, just when Alaska is so close to making the Finals for the first time in five years, is an excuse for him and the Aces not to close out San Miguel Beer tonight.

"The ball is still round, the goal is still 10 feet (high)," Ellis said Wednesday night after leading the Aces to a 3-1 lead with a 93-87 victory over the Beermen in their Talk 'N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup semifinal series.

He talked that way because he had promised clinching it for the Aces in Game 5, which is scheduled at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay, a venue Alaska has never played in all-tournament long.

"I wouldn't want to make any promises other than we will keep on fighting," Ellis said. "San Miguel is a tough team and I haven't been to the Finals in my many years here before.

"So that would make it special."

Game time is 7:20 p.m., with the Aces, the dynasty of the 1990s, looking to close out the Beermen and redeem themselves from blowing a similar lead months ago, in the same phase of the Philippine Cup opposite Purefoods.

Meanwhile, defending champion Red Bull and Talk 'N Text break their 2-2 tie in their separate best-of-seven series with the momentum obviously on the side of the Bulls.

Game 5 of the Red Bull–Talk 'N Text duel is scheduled at 4:35 p.m., with the Bulls seeking a follow-up of a masterful 111-104 conquest of the Phone Pals also on Wednesday.

GAMES TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
4:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Red Bull
7:20 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Alaska

"We have a great chance to close them out (in Game 5)," coach Tim Cone, who remembers that foldup against the Tender Juicy Giants clearly well, said. "The last time we had a 3-1 lead, we lost and it is not impossible for them (Beermen) to win three in a row."

San Miguel seemed to have the Aces by the throat Wednesday night until comebacking Mike Cortez caught fire and led a comeback by the Aces early in the fourth period.

Cortez, who came back from an ACL tear well past the halfway point of the elimination round, scored 12 of his 14 points in the fourth period and carried the Aces on his shoulders.

It was by far the most significant game in his return.

"There was pain (in my knee) but I just played through it," Cortez said. "There's no time for that (pain) now. These are the playoffs and we can't blame the schedule (of games) for being tired."

Galen Young has been unselfish throughout the series for San Miguel, electing to get his teammates involved more often than not. But on Wednesday, the SMB reinforcement couldn't turn on his offensive game when he wanted to and that told on the Beermen. *Musong R. Castillo*

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WHAT'S INSIDE
Rain stalls Federer /A32
Oden likely top draftee/A32

UAAP bets cleared next week

By Jasmine W. Payo

ELIGIBILITY CASES in all sports will be settled next week before the 70th UAAP season fires off on July 7.

The UAAP decided to wait for supporting documents required from several athletes, whose eligibility had been raised during yesterday's regular board meeting.

A previous report from INQUIRER Libre questioned the age of Jojo Duncil, the Finals Most Valuable Player during the 2006 men's basketball championship run of the University of Santo Tomas.

League rules have set the age limit of 24 years old for athletes in all sports.

The UAAP board also decided to allow masteral students to see action again starting this season.

However, the athlete must have completed his undergraduate studies from the same university. The board banned all masteral students from competing last year.

The league also limited to two the number of foreign players for each team.

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Bata adds spice to RPN-9 Poker Pool tourney

THE ENTRY OF POOL MAESTRO EFREN "Bata" Reyes is expected to give more excitement and thrill when the Poker Pool event gets under way at the Bugsy's Lair Billiards Hall in Sgt. Esguerra in Timog, Quezon City.

Organized and produced by RPN-9 and Solar Entertainment Corp., the event dubbed as Sargo's Golden Classics will be aired every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. The initial telecast will start on Aug 4.

"Definitely the Poker Pool event will be more exciting and thrilling with Bata (Efren) Reyes around," said RPN-9 brand manager Frederick Centeno. "His presence in the second leg will be eagerly awaited."

The organizing committee expressed its thanks to Philippine billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat for allowing Bata Reyes to compete in the event.

"We're grateful to Mr. Puyat for affording our budding players the chance to have a crack at the pool legend himself," said Centeno.

Meanwhile, Renemar David is aiming to avenge his loss to Jeffrey de Luna in the 2nd BSCP Open when they face each other in the first leg of the Poker Pool event to be aired on Aug. 4

"I'll get back at him (De Luna)," said the 17-year-old David, the 2006 Sydney World Junior quarterfinalist. "That's why I'm already in deep training.

Double world champion Ronato Alcano, on the other hand, is also looking to bounce back in this event after bowing to De Luna, the 2006 Doha Asian Games 9-ball silver medalist, and Joven Bustamante, the 2007 Fujairah World 8-ball semifinalist.

The 34-year-old Alcano yielded to De Luna in the 1st BSCP Open last year while Bustamante beat Alcano in the 2 nd BSCP.

"*Parehong* minus score *ako kina* Jeff (De Luna) at Joven (Bustamante), *pero titiyakin kong makakabawi ako dito sa* Poker Pool event," said Alcano. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

BATA REYES: Top attraction

Buenavista eyes fourth KOTR title

REIGNING TITLIST EDUARDO BUENAVISTA is looking for his fourth straight title but three-time women's champion Mercedia Manipol will not be around to defend her crown when the 2007 Adidas King of the Road holds its grand finale on Sunday in Metro Manila and nine other cities around the Philippines.

Buenavista, a two-time Olympian marathoner, is heavily favored to retain his crown although he can expect worthy challenge from KOTR Metro Manila champion Jujet de Asis, Bernardo Desamito and Juniel Languido who topped the Adidas KOTR Davao City leg on Feb 25.

Manipol is nursing an injury, leaving the throne wide open for the taking. Among the favorites in the field are two-time Milo marathon champion Jho-An Banayag, Estella Diaz of Davao and Maricel Maquilan who topped the female division of the KOTR Metro Manila run.

Aside from the 21K, 10K and 5K races at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila, 5K and 3K runs will also be simultaneously held in Cebu, Iloilo, Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Tarlac, San Fernando in La Union, Laoag and Puerto Princesa at 6 a.m. on Sunday.

Adidas gift certificates worth P706,000 await the top finishers and the lucky raffle winners at the venue. The top male and female finisher in the 21K race will also receive P10,000 each.

More than 20,000 runners are expected to join this unprecedented KOTR nationwide run.

The annual KOTR has held three 10K races this year with Buenavista and Manipol topping the Baguio KOTR leg on Feb. 11; Juniel Languido and Estela Mamac Diaz winning in the Davao KOTR last Feb. 25; and Jujet de Asis and Maricel Maquilan emerged champions in the KOTR Metro Manila leg last March 11.

Winners in the Baguio and Davao legs will have an all expense paid trip to Manila for this Sunday's national finals.

Adidas sports marketing manager Goody Custodio said all entries in this Sunday's KOTR are entitled to 20 percent discount at the Adidas outlets in SM Megamall and Trinoma Mall upon presentation of their race numbers.

WINNING SHOT: Reese Hoffa of the US wins the men's shot put during the IAAF World Athletics Grand Prix meeting in Ostrava with a throw of 21.77meters. AFP

SEAG winners likely to get more rewards

By June Navarro

MEDALISTS IN THE COMING SOUTHeast Asian Games may be doubly rewarded.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. yesterday said the POC and the Philippine Sports Commission are pushing for the approval of a bonus scheme boosting by 100 percent the monetary rewards for winners in the Thailand SEAG this December.

Under the Sports Incentives Act, a gold medal in the SEAG is worth P100,000, a silver P50,000 and a bronze P25,000.

"It was discussed (increasing the cash incentives) during our past meetings with the PSC and they (PSC officials) have welcomed the idea," said Cojuangco.

The POC chief said doubling the cash incentives would also mean increasing the allowances of athletes regardless of class. Athletes are usually categorized as classes A, B, C and developmental pool.

The elite athletes get monthly allowances of P8,000 apart from free meals and lodging while those in the developmental pool get only a P4,000 monthly stipend.

Cojuangco said that once the SEAG task force composed of POC and PSC officials begin quartering the candidate-athletes, all of them would receive the same allowances.

"There are athletes in the training pool capable of winning medals for the country. We just have to discover their potential by giving them the right breaks and equal opportunity," said Cojuangco.

Meanwhile, the SEAG Task Force will host a general assembly of the 721 candidate-athletes, coaches and national sports association representatives on Monday to brief them of the rules during the training period prior to the games.

Peping clears foreign stint of nat'l bets

By June Navarro

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PRESIDENT Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. finally cleared yesterday the foreign training of Filipino athletes, saying he's in favor of it based on the current situation.

But Cojuangco stressed that foreign training should be stopped as soon as the country catches up with the latest technology in sports.

"We should eventually improve the training of athletes locally. We can't rely on foreign training all the time," said Cojuangco.

Cojuangco had earlier opposed the foreign training of Filipino athletes while the Philippine Sports Commission was in the thick of preparation to send 20 Olympic-potential athletes for a two-month course in Guangzhou, China.

But he made it clear that he was talking about preparation in sports that would eventually exclude foreign training in the long run.

The former Tarlac lawmaker stressed the need to update and develop the country's sports program through technology and knowledge transfer from foreign coaches and sports officials overseas.

"We should catch up with the new technology in sports. If we could be at par with the superpowers, we will not need foreign training anymore simply because we could do it at home," said Cojuangco.

Cojuangco explained that sending the 721 athlete-candidates to a sports facility supervised by the PSC and POC could jumpstart the objective of eliminating overseas training.

"We will hire a nutritionist for each sport and upgrade the skills of the coaches. There are several talented coaches here who were forced to seek jobs elsewhere because of a substandard pay scale," said Cojuangco. "We will address that problem, too."

Cojuangco also admitted he was wrong in branding sports facilities abroad as virtual prison cells.

"I might have used the wrong term. It was a wrong terminology on my part," said Cojuangco. "The athletes stay there all the time but with complete facilities and recreation."

SPORTSWATCH

Blue Eagles hold cheer rally today

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES DRUM UP THEIR CHAMPIONSHIP BID IN THE 70TH UAAP season with "The Big Blue Eagle Cheer Rally: Prepare for Glory" at 4 p.m. today at the Ateneo college covered courts. The event will feature a "Gladiator March" of Ateneo athletes, homegrown rock bands Milano and Saranggola ni Pepe, the 1st Chris Tiu three-point challenge, the Halikinu Radio celebrity shootout, and performances by the Blue Babble Battalion and the Blue Eagles.

Gregorio, UAAP coaches lead SCOOP guests

PROGRAMS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines-Samahang Basketbol Ng Pilipinas and the coming UAAP will be discussed in today's SCOOP weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant-Padre Faura in Ermita, Manila. Invited in today's session starting at 11 a.m. are BAP-SBP executive director Patrick Gregorio and RP women's basketball coach Fritz Gaston.

Checkmate berths still available

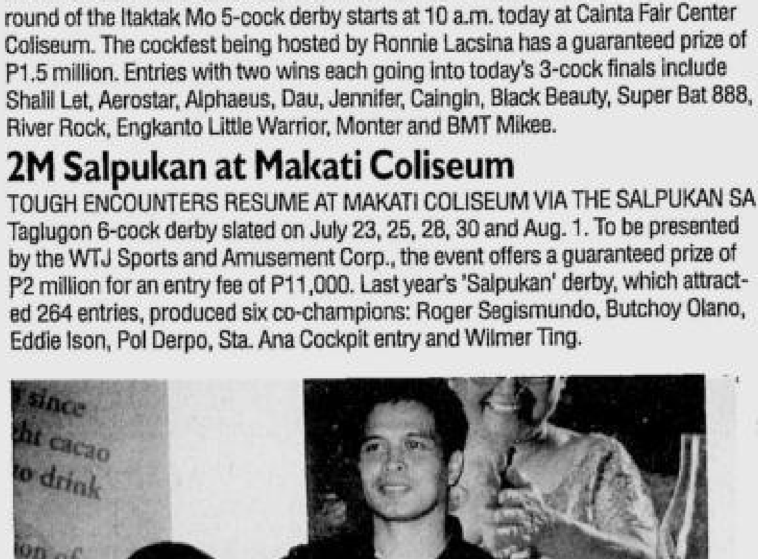
A SECOND BATCH OF ENROLLEES FOR THE FOURTH SERIES OF CHECKMATE Saturdays- and Sundays-only chess clinics sponsored by Milo will be accepted until July 7. Open to kids who are 5 years and above, the clinic consists of seven consecutive Saturdays- or Sundays-chess classes culminating in a final evaluation tournament. Sunday classes are only available at SFS from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Cainta derby finals today

WITH MORE THAN 150 EXCITING MATCHES LINED UP, THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the Itaktak Mo 5-cock derby starts at 10 a.m. today at Cainta Fair Center Coliseum. The cockfest being hosted by Ronnie Lacsina has a guaranteed prize of P1.5 million. Entries with two wins each going into today's 3-cock finals include Shalil Let, Aerostar, Alphaeus, Dau, Jennifer, Caingin, Black Beauty, Super Bat 888, River Rock, Engkanto Little Warrior, Monter and BMT Mikee.

2M Salpukan at Makati Coliseum

TOUGH ENCOUNTERS RESUME AT MAKATI COLISEUM VIA THE SALPUKAN SA Taglugon 6-cock derby slated on July 23, 25, 28, 30 and Aug. 1. To be presented by the WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., the event offers a guaranteed prize of P2 million for an entry fee of P11,000. Last year's 'Salpukan' derby, which attracted 264 entries, produced six co-champions: Roger Segismundo, Butchoy Olano, Eddie Ison, Pol Derpo, Sta. Ana Cockpit entry and Wilmer Ting.



PATRIMONIO VISIT: PBA four-time MVP Alvin Patrimonio visits the Tsoko Nut Batirol branch at De La Rosa Carpark I in Makati City. With Patrimonio are the Tsoko Nut staff. Other Tsoko.Nut outlets are at SM Makati, WalterMart-Makati, Shopwise-Sucat, RCBC Plaza and at Fun Ranch-Pasig.

Dribbling feat lands in Guinness

By Jasmine W. Payo

ERWIN EVANGELISTA, AT 5 FEET 4, KNEW he would get nowhere near a basketball career

So the 22-year-old finds it amusing that he is now ranked among the world's basketball best after pulling off an extraordinary feat that required more than just height and brawn.

Evangelista endured 45 hours and 22 minutes of dribbling a basketball during a nationwide contest and recently landed in the Guinness World Records.

"I never thought I could win," Evangelista said in Filipino. "There were varsity players and I think the other participants had the advantage. Maybe I just had better stamina."

Evangelista eclipsed the previous world record of 26 hours and 40 minutes set by African-American Joseph Odhiambo by nearly 20 hours during the Guinness Dribbling Challenge held Oct. 28-30 last year at the Pasay City Sports Complex.

Guinness—the internationally recognized chronicler of record-breaking achievements—appraised the feat in its London office after the Philippines submitted the required documentation.

Six months later, Guinness honored Evangelista with a certificate citing him as the new record holder for the longest dribbling period.

Evangelista confessed, however, that securing a spot in the world basketball annals was hardly his motivation.

As a working student, he had a more pragmatic purpose in the challenge that pitted over 100 young Filipinos from Manila, Cebu, Dagupan and Davao.

"My only goal was to get the scholarship (prize)," said Evangelista, who used to flip burgers in a fast-food joint in between his criminology studies in a computer school. "So even if I just finished fifth, I thought it would be okay."

EVANGELISTA: World dribbling champ

Evangelista's father, Romy, also reminded him during the contest that the P500,000 cash prize would help fix their home in Libis, Quezon City that had only a tarpaulin for a roof since a fire razed their neighborhood three years ago.

"I came to watch him when there was just 10 of them," said Romy, a 53-year-old electrician. "It was a Monday and I didn't go to work. I gave him moral support and reminded him about our house so that he'd be motivated to win."

Unlike the previous record holder who tapped the help of nutritionists and other sport experts, Evangelista came in with no preparation.

"*Tambay lang talaga ako sa* (I'm just a bum in the) basketball court and we were only invited to join (by contest scouts)," he said

As a strategy, Evangelista opted not to take the allowed five-minute break per hour. He dribbled for eight straight hours starting Saturday afternoon, then took an accumulated 40-minute rest during the first day of competition.

"But I still didn't get to sleep," he said. "I just rested and stretched. The next day, I only rested for 20 minutes or only if I have to go to the bathroom."

When 55 contestants reached the 26-hour mark, some of Evangelista's friends felt satisfied in beating the world record.

"They took a break and never came back," said Evangelista, who plays as a point guard in *barangay* leagues. "I was also tired, but I wanted to continue."

When the medical team advised him to stop since he looked pale, Evangelista insisted he only felt a little fatigued.

And even as the lone contestant left standing, Evangelista refused to stop and dribbled for 30 minutes more. "I was targeting 48 hours," he noted. "I knew I can still do it."

As the sure winner of the event, the medical team though persuaded him to finally stop. Proving that he's still in fine form, Evangelista only asked for a drink after the contest.

Evangelista had since then built a new home for his parents and four siblings. He had also shifted to a computer engineering course in a better school.

Still, Evangelista couldn't get over the fact that he had made a career out of basketball after all.

Villar heads NCAA Press Corps

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC association (NCAA) Press Corps recently elected a new set of officers headed by Joey Villar of the Philippine Star as president, Marc Anthony Reyes of the Philippine Daily Inquirer as chair and Julius Manicad of the Daily Tribune as secretary. Other officers are first vice president Frank Calapre of the Manila Times, second VP Ace Pasco of Abante, treasurer Lito Oredo of Bandera and deputy secretary Peter Atencio of the Manila Standard Today. The directors include Waylon Galvez of the Manila Bulletin, Christine Moncada of Malaya, Zen Dadacay of Business Mirror, Sarah Cope of Tanod, Marivic Awitan of Bulgar, Girlie Turno of Balita and Russell Cadayona of PM. Other than basketball, the group will also cover other sports in the league for the whole of Season 83.

RACING
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Sunday Street (5), Malihim (1), Strong Move (4)
Race 2—(Tri)—Real Tough (3), Fabiola (1), Lord Brian (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Beautiful Pet (5), Princess of Aachon (1), Splendor (6), Penny Wise (2)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Yo Tero (6), Penny Wise (2)
Race 5—(Tri)—Celestial (3), Cool Turner (2), Power Dance (5)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Makati Haven (2), Bunker Buster (1), BMI Baby (7), Dagger Look (6)
Race 7—(Tri)—Native Prince (5), Scarab (2), Take Ten (1)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Banknet (5), El Cid (4), Kalashnikov (6), Twist & Shout (1)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—D'Minnows (6), Express Strike (1), Pepe (8), Record Holder (7), Guts (5), Black Emperor (4)

Lions face Altas today

GAMES TODAY (The Arena)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual (srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs St. Benilde (srs)

THREE TEAMS HOPE TO SUSTAIN THEIR impressive starts even as one squad attempts to recover from its initial shock in today's doubleheader of the NCAA men's basketball tournament at The Arena in San Juan.

Defending champion San Beda, Letran and St. Benilde shoot for win No. 2, while Perpetual tries to bounce back after a defeat in the inaugurals last Saturday.

The Red Lions, whom many believe would reach the final trouble-free, take on the Altas at 2 p.m., while the Knights battle the Blazers at 4.

"Teams out there are working very hard to beat us, that gives us a lot of pressure but it also keeps us on our toes," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim.

Though the Altas are coming off a 59-56 loss to San Sebastian last Saturday and won't have 6-foot-9 Indonesian Thoyib Isman, Lim said the Lions are not taking any chances.

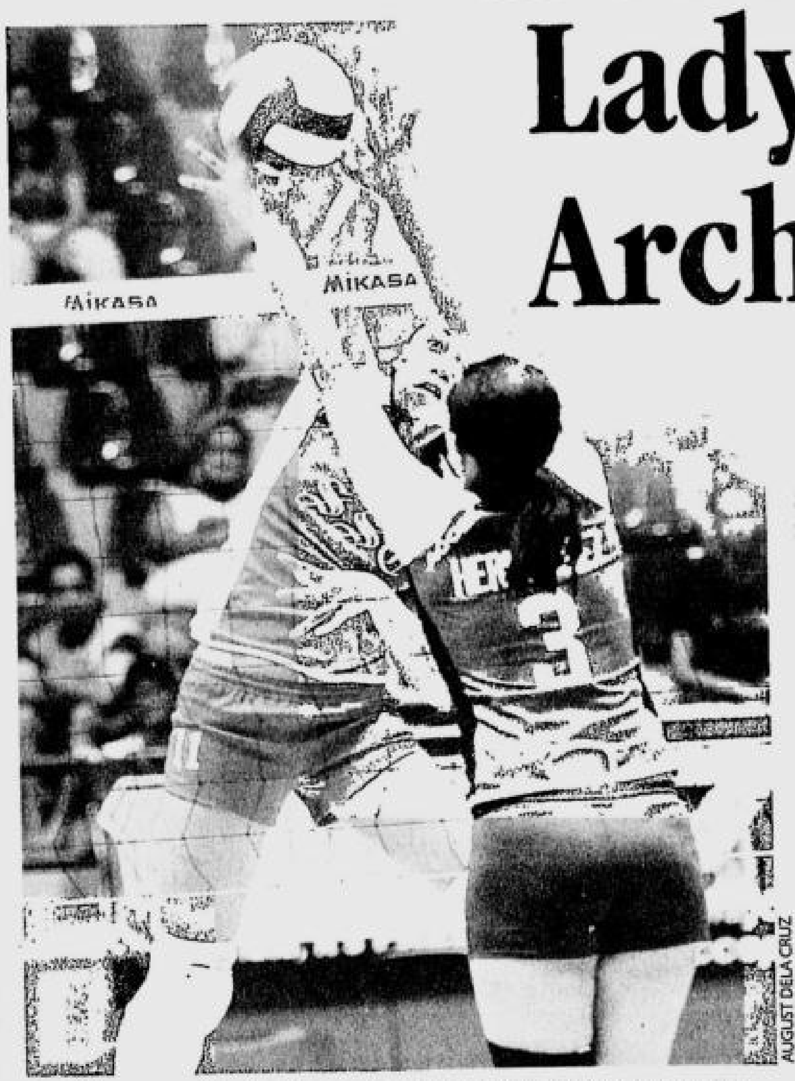
Last year, the Lions opened with a 1-1 card then won 13 straight games all the way to the championship.

San Beda has superior firepower with its lineup led by reigning Rookie-MVP winner Sam Ekwe, Yousif Aljamal, Pong Escobal, Ogie Menor and Borgie Hermida.

The Altas lost the core of their lineup last season and now won't even get to use their surprise package from Jakarta after the league had declared him ineligible because of a previous stint in a commercial league in Indonesia.

"Now we just have to make do with what we have. Our backs are against the wall, but who knows, this game just might change the complexion of the season for us," said Perpetual coach Bay Cristobal.

Letran, winner over Mapua in the opener, is out to prove that, with a sound program, it can transform a team laden with rookies into a title contender. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



SSC's Laurence Ann Latigay scores off La Salle's Celine Hernandez.

Lady Stags rip Lady Archers, gain finals

Games on Sunday
2 p.m. – Lyceum vs La Salle (for third)
5 p.m. – UST vs SSC (best-of-3 for title)

SAN SEBASTIAN ENDED LA SALLE'S REIGN in the Shakey's V-League last night, pulling off a 25-18, 23-25, 25-21, 25-22 victory to arrange a showdown with University of Santo Tomas for the crown at The Arena in San Juan.

Thai import Jaroensri Bualee and Laurence Ann Latigay combined for 58 points as they neutralized La Salle's vaunted frontline with their quick plays and ferocious attacks and gained a second straight championship appearance.

The victory also avenged SSC's setback to La Salle in last conference's finale that stretched the Lady Archers' title romp to three in this tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision.

Game One of the best-of-three title series, backed by Mikasa, Accel, Jaemark's Restaurant and Smart Buddy, is set on Sunday at 4 p.m.

La Salle and Lyceum dispute third place honors at 2 p.m.

San Sebastian, which lost the No. 1 spot in the final to UST by the thinnest of margins in the tiebreak, 1.146-1.144 despite a 3-0 sweep of Lyceum in the last semis game Tuesday, seized control early as Bualee and Latigay alternated in hammering out powerful kills that pierced La Salle's defense.

The Lady Archers battled back in the second set behind Thai import Sanorseang Areerat and Michelle Datuin.

The Lady Stags regrouped, however, and reasserted their mastery over the Taft-based squad in the third set before holding off their rivals with timely hits from Bualee and Latigay.

Rysabelle Devanadera and Jinni Mondejar tossed in seven points apiece for San Sebastian while Joy Pulido added six for the Lady Stags of coach Roger Gorayeb.

UST, which blanked La Salle to gain the outright berth in the final, is eyeing a successful return to the league after skipping the last conference following the graduation of its key players.

Areerat and Datuin finished with 14 and 11 attacks and conspired for seven blocks for a combined 32-point output while Carla Llaguno chipped in 10 points for La Salle, which had to nip Adamson to gain the last semis seat.

Dazz, Lhuillier forge MVBA title showdown

DAZZ 'SANG PATAK ARRANGED A championship showdown against M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala last Wednesday in the 1st Talk 'N Text Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) Invitational Tournament at the New Cebu Coliseum in Cebu City.

Robert Sanz unloaded 17 of his 24 points in the first half as Dazz secured the remaining Finals berth by routing Hotel Fortuna Firely, 87-69.

Reed Juntilla and Chico Lanete added 17 markers each for Dazz.

M. Lhuillier secured the first championship slot by stunning Burger King, the other PBL team, 93-79, in the other semifinal duel.

Leo Bat-og, Mike Manigo and Lyndon Gudez paced the Jewelers' balanced charge against the PBL quarterfinalists Whoppers, who was reinforced by 6-foot-7 Fil-Am Joe Devance.

The Kitchen Specialists took in Lanete, Harbour Centre's two-time PBL Finals Most Valuable Player, and teammates Beau Belga and Chad Alonzo as reinforcements.

The scores:

M. LHUILLIER-CEBU 93—Bat-og 14, Gudez 13, Padilla 13, Enriquez 12, Manigo 11, Aying 9, Rodriguez 5, Latonio 5, Torion 4, Ramirez 3, Mepana 2, Capuiolan 2, Piodo 0, Smith 0

BURGER KING 79—Quiñahan 15, Mendoza 12, Devance 12, Tan 11, Aquino 10, Urbiztondo 9, David 4, Saguindel 3, Buenafe 3, Bravo 0

Quarters: 18-23, 42-46, 70-60, 93-79

DAZZ 87—Sanz 24, Juntilla 17, Lanete 17, Belga 10, Huang 5, Alonzo 5, Rodriguez 4, Larong 3, Butel 2, Moreno 0, Bucao 0, Mercado 0, Almacin 0

HOTEL FORTUNA FIREFLY 69—Saladaga 16, Marata 14, Matias 9, Hardin 8, Guiyab 4, Mangahas 4, Kalaw 4, Santa Cruz 4, Cruz 4, Cabili 2, Gatchalian 0, Go 0, Ayodele 0

Quarters: 25-10, 43-27, 59-51, 87-69

Atilano rips Muros' hurdles mark

ATILANO

SHEENA ATILANO SET A Philippine record in the women's 100-meter hurdles to grab the silver medal in the third leg of the 2007 Asian Athletics Grand Prix held in Pune City in Western India Wednesday.

Atilano clocked 13.65 seconds, one-hundredths of a second faster than the old record set by Elma Muros during the 1991 Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

Atilano finished second behind Anastasiya Vinogradova of Kazakhstan, who clocked 13.22 seconds for her third gold in the meet.

Dedeh Erawati of Indonesia, the 2005 Southeast Asian Games silver medalist, settled for a bronze in 13.68 seconds.

The 27-year-old Atilano had also secured a silver in the same event in the Grand Prix's opening leg in Bangkok and a bronze in the second stage in Guwahati, India.

"She is improving so fast, and I have no doubt she will be one of the gold medalists in the coming SEA Games," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok yesterday.

Atilano, who picked up a $2,100 (P98,000) cash prize, landed outside of the top three in the last SEA Games.

The La Carlota City, Negros Occidental bet, who trained for six months in the United States along with sprinter Ralph Wally Soguilon, had a personal best time of 13.71 seconds before the Pune meet.

More than 150 athletes from 23 Asian countries participated in the three-leg series. *Cedelf P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas*

Miñoza opens with 69 at UBS golfest

TOKYO—CONTINUING HIS STRONG return to form this year, the Philippines' Frankie Miñoza recorded an opening-round one-under-par 69 to share 10th place at the UBS Japan Golf Tour Championship outside Tokyo.

The 47-year-old Miñoza, who won the Philippines Open earlier in the year, opened in fine fashion when he fired a wedge shot to 10 feet for a birdie.

Another birdie followed at the 11th. His only bogey came at the 17th.

With only 17 players in red figures after round one on a relatively benign day at Shishido Hills, 30-year-old Naoya Takemoto leads the way after a stunning round of seven-under 63.

Japan's Toru Taniguchi, Chinese Taipei's Lin Keng-chi and Korea's Lee Dong-hwan share second with 67s.

Zamboanga hosts Milo run Sunday

THE 31ST NATIONAL MILO MARATHON makes another stop in Mindanao on Sunday when the country's biggest and longest-running foot race visits Zamboanga City.

Local organizers are expecting to surpass last year's mark of 3,500 runners in the 21K qualifying race, 5K fun run and the Kiddies 3K event. At stake is the total cash prize of P159,000 as well as trophies and medals to the top 10 finishers in each racing event.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions of the 21K run will advance to the 42K national finals slated Nov. 18 in Metro Manila where a cash pot of P75,000 await the king and queen of the event.

Also included for this Sunday's festivities held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific and Department of Tourism, is the cheer-dance competition.

Local race organizer Pedro Alfaro has invited Cesar Lobregat to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. and help hand the prizes to the winners.

Last Sunday, the 31st Milo Marathon held its 5th elimination race in Gen. Santos City. The chairman and CEO of Nestle Phils., Nandu Nandkishore, was on hand to kick off the remaining 20 legs of the 31st National MILO Marathon and awarded the prizes to perennial 21K winners Junel Boncit and Monalisa Ambasa.

Topping the Zamboanga City leg last year were Abelardo Mahinay and Mary Grace delos Santos.

Milo Sports Events Executive Pat Goc-ong advises runners to be at the starting area an hour before the race.

Lanao Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(LASURECO)
Maliwanag, Marawi City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Management of Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LASURECO), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) with office address at Maliwanag Compound, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur invites all qualified supplier to bid/price the following items:

ITEM NO.	PARTICULARS	QUANTITY
LOT-I	STEEL POLE (STD. Min. thick 2.5 mm metal to metal, 86 micron gal., min. load capacity 350 psi) a. 30 feet b. 35 feet	2,294 pcs 60 pcs
LOT-II	CONDUCTOR a. Conductor, Bare, ACSR #1/0, AWG, 6/1 b. Conductor, Bare, ACSR #2, AWG, 6/1 c. Conductor, Duplex, #6, AWG	466,000 meters 120,000 meters 82,000 meters
LOT-III	TRANSFORMER (Brand New) a. Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional, 25 KVA b. Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional, 15 KVA c. Cut-out & Arrester Combination TRANSFORMER (First Class Reconditioned) a. Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional, 25 KVA b. Transformer, Pole Type, Conventional, 15 KVA	116 units 10 units 223 units 116 units 10 units
LOT-IV	LINE HARDWARES (Assorted)	Per bill of materials

Above materials and hardwares are intended for the energization of various Barangays in the 1st and 2nd District of the Province of Lanao del Sur.
The Schedule of BAC Activities:

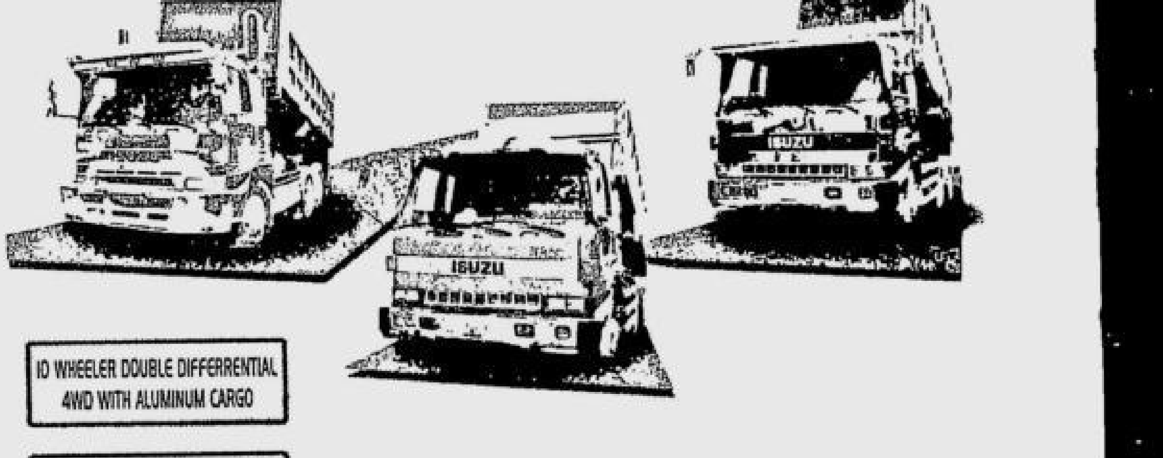
BAC Activities	Venue	Date
1. Preparation of Bid Documents		• July 20-22, 2007
2. Publication of Invitation to Bid		• June 23, 2007 (1st) • June 30, 2007 (2nd)
3. Submission of Letters of Intent		• July 02, 2007
4. Pre-Bid Conference	• Marawi City	• July 03, 2007
5. Opening of bids	• – do –	• July 04, 2007
6. For IBD Info and Appropriate Action		• July 05, 2007
7. Awards		• July 06, 2007
8. First Delivery of Materials	• LASURECO Comp., Marawi City	• July 16, 2007
9. Second Delivery of Materials	• – do –	• Aug. 16, 2007
10. Third Delivery of Materials	• – do –	• Sept. 16, 2007

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P 5,000.00** per contract to LASURECO. The Approved Budget Cost (ABC) for these projects, materials only is **P 62,280,442.90** exclusive of Expanded Value Added Tax (EVAT). The LASURECO reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **COL. TATAR M. BORIONGAN, GSC (RET)**
Chairman, BAC

Noted:
(Sgd.) **BALIAMEN P. MAMAINTE, MNSA, CESO III**
General Manager

(PDI – June 22 & 29, 2007)



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MAKATI (SPORTS) CLUB, INC.
NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Makati (Sports) Club, Inc. has approved the sale by auction of the shares of the following individuals/corporate stockholders:

STOCKHOLDER	ADDRESS	SC. NO.
1. Danilo E. Suarez (1440)	Unit 8B, Cypress Gardens Cond., Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City	A-1058
2. RFM Corporation (0474)	8/F, RFM Bldg., Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City	A-1578
3. Genesis Properties & Sales Corp. (0959)	Genesis Properties & Sales Corp., 1753 Nicanor Garcia Street, San Miguel Village, Makati City	A-2109
4. Blas F. Ople (0770)	#8 Zalamea Street, Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City	A-861
5. Gliceria R. Bagasin (1941)	L25 B6 Guatemela St., Loyola Grand Villas, Quezon City	A-2311
6. SSC & B Lintas Worldwide Manila (0965)	Lyntas Manila, 17/F, Rufino Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	A-1583
7. Citadel Shipping Services, Inc. (1536)	Naigal Nitto Logistics Phils., Inc. 3/F, Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban Street, Legaspi Village, Makati	B-510

The auction sale will be held on 27 July 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Club's Dasmariñas Room.

This announcement also serves as a notice and demand to the members/stockholders concerned that the auction of said shares may be avoided if they pay the overdue accounts at anytime during office hours before the auction sale.

(Sgd.) **CLAUDIO B. ALTURA**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI—June 29, 2007)

SPORTS

Rain stalls Wimby march of Federer

ROGER Federer serves to Juan Martin Del Potro. REUTERS

LONDON—WIMBLEDON CHAMPION Roger Federer will have to complete unfinished business on Thursday after his second round match against Argentine Juan Martin del Potro was suspended following a downpour over southwest London.

The Swiss world number one was leading, 6-2, 7-5, 2-0, when the players had to scurry back into the locker room at 1543 GMT.

Local hope Tim Henman was also frustrated after he managed only two games against Spanish serve and volleyer Feliciano Lopez.

Nadal, the French Open champion seeded to meet Federer in the final, will be in action against Werner Eschauer.

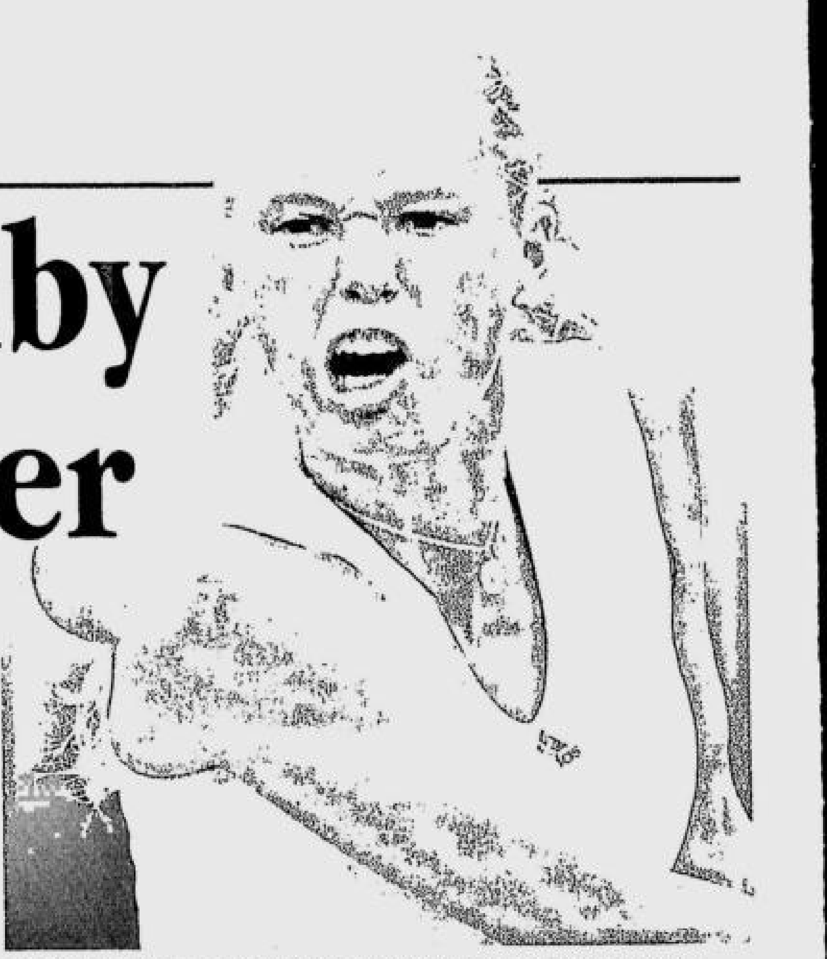
In the women's draw, holder Amelie Mauresmo will be seeking a quick passage into the third round as she has yet to recover from a right thigh strain.

The disrupted schedule means she has been put on Court Two, often dubbed graveyard of the champions, starting late in the day.

She pulled out of the women's doubles as a precaution and is due to face 98th-ranked Yvonne Meusburger from Austria.

Former champions Maria Sharapova and Venus Williams will also be eyeing places in the last 32.

Second seed Sharapova should not face too many hurdles in overcoming Severine Bremond and Williams should also stay on track for a possible fourth round showdown against the Russian when she takes on Hana Sromova. *Reuters*



CAROLINE Wozniacki of Denmark returns the ball to Anastasiya Yakimova of Belarus during the first round of Wimbledon. AFP

Serena, Venus head US team

NEW YORK—SERENA AND VENUS Williams on Wednesday were both named to the United States' Fed Cup team for the semi-final tie against Russia next month. The Williams sisters were two of the four players to comprise the squad along with the world's No. 1 doubles player Lisa Raymond and the 18-year-old Vania King. It was the same team that posted a 5-0 victory over Belgium in the quarter-finals in April. *AFP*

Ochoa, Sorenstam pick to rule Women's Open

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA—MEXICO's Lorena Ochoa and Sweden's Annika Sorenstam are among the favorites for the 62nd US Women's Open which begins Thursday.

Ochoa, Norwegian Suzann Pettersen, Sorenstam, American Paula Creamer, South Korean Mi Hyun Kim and Australian Karrie Webb all have a legitimate chance to win the biggest event in women's golf.

Just 25, Ochoa is the world No. 1 and leading money winner on the LPGA Tour this year.

A burgeoning superstar with ability matched only by her dedication, Ochoa has not won a major title, and has gained a reputation for being unable to close the deal in regular tournaments as often as she should.

Pettersen, 26, missed most of the 2005 season with a serious back injury, but she has displayed her true colours this year, finishing runner-up to Morgan Pressel at the season's first major, the Kraft Nabisco, before winning the LPGA Championship three weeks ago.

"In the last major, I managed myself around pretty nicely, and that's what it's all about this week again, being patient, patient and patient again," Pettersen said.

Defending champion Sorenstam is playing her way back from a serious injury a ruptured disk in her neck that caused her to miss two months.

"My neck is healing very nicely. I've been pain free for seven or eight weeks, so life is good," said Sorenstam, who won the 1996 US Open at Pine Needles.

Kim, meanwhile, is part of a 35-strong South Korean contingent, an astonishingly high number from a country that only a decade ago had only a handful of players good enough to compete internationally.

Webb, 32, sometimes feels old next to so many teenagers, and it's been 11 years since she burst onto the scene, winning the LPGA money title in her rookie season.

Seven major victories later, she cannot be overlooked on a course where she blew away the field for a stunning eight-stroke victory at the 2001 US Open. *AFP*

SCISSORS KICK: Brazil's Robinho makes a scissors kick during their Copa America Venezuela 2007 group B match against Mexico Wednesday. Mexico won, 2-0. AFP

FIFA changes altitude ban

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND—FACED WITH WIDESPREAD protests across South America, FIFA blinked Wednesday and adjusted its ban on high altitude games. FIFA eased the restrictions to World Cup qualifiers above 3,000 meters (9,840 feet) rather than 2,500 meters (8,200 feet). The change, brought on by protests from South American countries, means international matches can still be played in the capitals of Colombia and Ecuador, but rules out Bolivia's capital, La Paz. While the initial decision applied to all international games, the new rule will be limited to World Cup qualifiers. The announcement by FIFA President Sepp Blatter came after the world soccer body's executive committee heard a complaint from CONMEBOL, the 10-nation South American soccer confederation, which voted unanimously two weeks ago to press FIFA to overturn the ban. *AP*

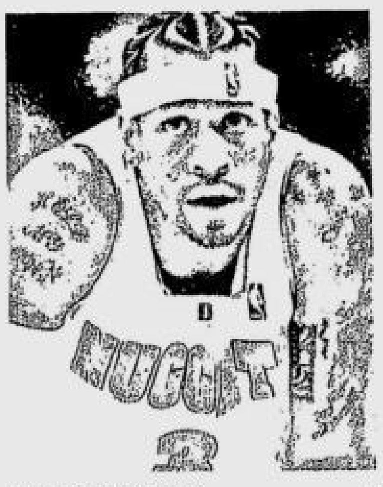
NBA extends TV contracts

NEW YORK—THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL Association has extended its television contracts with the ESPN sports cable channels, their ABC terrestrial network parent and the TNT cable channel, deals that will include rights for digital media content. The eight-year extensions, announced Wednesday, continue through the 2015-16 season. The current six-year contracts expire at the end of next season. The NBA will receive about $930 million (euro692 million) a year for all its broadcast rights, an increase of more than 20 percent from the previous average of $767 million (euro571 million), according to a person familiar with the deal who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release details. *AP*

Haile rips world marks

OSTRAVA, CZECH REPUBLIC—HAILE GEBRSElassie set two world records in the rarely contested one-hour event at the Golden Spike on Wednesday, eclipsing the mark for the time-limited race and adding another at 20,000 meters. In both events, Gebrselassie broke the 16-year-old records of Mexico's Arturo Barrios set in La Fleche, France. The Ethiopian completed 21,285 meters to beat Barrios' mark by 184 meters, and finished 20,000 meters in 56 minutes, 25.98 seconds, nearly a full 30 seconds faster than the previous standard. The Ethiopian, who dominated long distance running before switching to the marathon and road races in 2005, was supported by three pacemakers at the start. *AP*

Iverson's trial for assault on



ALLEN IVERSON AP

WASHINGTON—A FEDERAL JURY began on Wednesday hearing a $20 million (euro15 million) lawsuit against NBA star Allen Iverson, who is accused of assaulting two men in a bar fight.

Marlin Godfrey and David Anthony Kittrell sued Iverson, saying the Denver Nuggets guard stood by as his entourage beat them and at one point even joined in by hitting someone with a bottle.

They accuse Iverson and co-defendant Jason Kane of assault, infliction of emotional distress, negligence and conspiracy and are seeking $20 million (euro15 million) in damages.

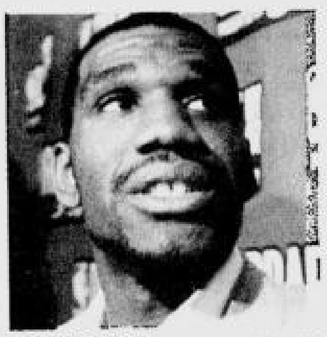
Defense lawyers say Godfrey was drunk and picked a fight and that neither Iverson nor Kane was actually involved in on July 20, 2005. They accuse Godfrey and Kittrell of targeting Iverson because of his wealth.

In his opening statement, plaintiffs' lawyer Gregory L. Lattimer told jurors that when his clients declined to leave the VIP section of Washington's Eyebar, Kane and another bodyguard, delivered a "viscous, doglike beating," kicking and stomping on Godfrey. He said Kittrell was later attacked as well.

Iverson was not in court, and Lattimer repeatedly patted the empty chair at the defense table for emphasis as he talked about him.

Iverson is expected in court next week to testify. *AP*

Trail Blazers likely to tap Oden first in NBA draft



GREG ODEN REUTERS

NEW YORK—OHIO STATE center Greg Oden and Texas forward Kevin Durant figure to top the list in the NBA Draft, yet suspense lingers over whether big names like Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett will change addresses on Thursday.

The Portland Trail Blazers choose first in the NBA Draft at Madison Square Garden and are expected to select 7-foot (2.13 m) Oden, the 19-year-old who led Ohio in scoring (15.7 avg), rebounding (9.6 rebounds) and blocked shots as a freshman.

"You'd have to look at a team funny if it didn't make Oden the number one pick," Oden's boyhood friend and Ohio State team mate Mike Conley Jr. told reporters on Wednesday.

Oden knows there is going to be pressure to produce right away in the NBA.

"That's hard and I know it's going to be difficult," Oden told reporters. "But I had a chance to talk to (former Spurs center) David Robinson and what he said to me was you just need to take time ... don't put it all on yourself."

The 6-10 (2.06 m) Durant, a great offensive talent who led the Big 12 in scoring (25.8 per game), rebounding (11.1 avg) and blocked shots as a freshman, is sure to go second to the Seattle SuperSonics should Oden be made the top pick.

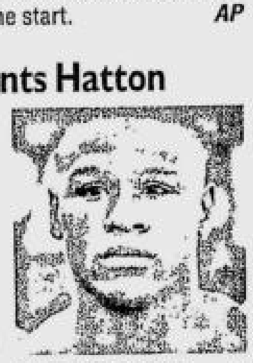
Oden and Durant are pegged by the most experts as future NBA top performers.

Bryant and Garnett have been rumored in a number of blockbuster deals, with the Chicago Bulls and Phoenix Suns mentioned respectively as possible destinations.

Shawn Marion of the Suns, Lamar Odom of the Lakers and Jermaine O'Neal of the Pacers are among other big name players mentioned in trade talks ahead of the draft.

The rest of the top 10 draft selections could include such promising players as twice national college champion Florida's Al Horford, Joakim Noah and Corey Brewer, Ohio State point guard Mike Conley Jr. and Chinese power forward Yi Jianlian. *Reuters*

Mayweather wants Hatton



MAYWEATHER AP

LOS ANGELES—BRASH-talking Floyd Mayweather issued a challenge to Ricky Hatton for a super-fight featuring two of the boxing's most talented undefeated fighters. "Now that Hatton has opened up his big mouth, he might start to think about what he has been asking for," Mayweather said. "Does he really want to step into the ring with best fighter of this era and embarrass himself? Being the coward that he is, I doubt he'll get in the ring. We'll see what his excuse will be this time." The likelihood of Hatton agreeing to a showdown with Mayweather may have moved a step closer when Mayweather's adviser Leonard Ellerbe declared they wanted to sign a deal "as soon as possible." *AFP*

Royals complete Angels' mastery

ROGER CLEMENS REUTERS

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—JORGE DE LA Rosa won for the first time since May 13, Mark Teahen singled home a run in the third inning and the Kansas City Royals beat the Los Angeles Angels 1-0 to complete a three-game sweep on Wednesday.

Kansas City has won four straight for the first time since July 4-7 last year and at 14-11 is assured of a winning month for the first time since July 2003 (15-11). The Royals had not blanked an opponent since last Sept. 5 against the New York Yankees.

Los Angeles, shut out for the fourth time this season, had 10 hits but didn't advance a runner past second, stranding six and hitting two double plays. Royals catcher Jason LaRue twice threw out runners attempting to steal.

De La Rosa (5-9) gave up 10 hits in six-plus innings for Kansas City.

Mariners 2, Red Sox 1

At Seattle, Jose Lopez drove in Ichiro Suzuki with a double in the 11th inning that eluded a leaping, twisting Manny Ramirez at the left-field wall.

Suzuki drew a one-out walk off former Mariners starter Joel Pineiro (1-1), and Lopez then hit a 1-0 pitch off the wall. The ball bounded past center fielder Coco Crisp, who was backing up Ramirez, allowing Suzuki to score easily.

Jason Davis (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings for Seattle.

Orioles 4, Yankees 0

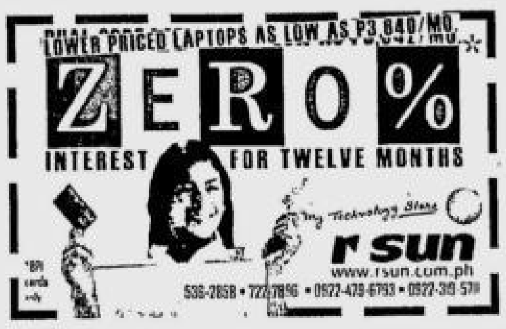
At Baltimore, Roger Clemens was denied his 350th victory by Baltimore, which used a four-run sixth inning and an overpowering pitching performance by Erik Bedard to beat New York.

Clemens (1-3) was trying to become the eighth major league pitcher with 350 career wins. He blanked Baltimore through five innings, but his bid fell apart under a barrage of hits in the sixth, including a three-run homer by Aubrey Huff.

Clemens' run of 200 straight starts with at least one strikeout ended. It was the third-longest by a major leaguer, behind Pedro Martinez (293) and Javier Vazquez (237).

Rookie sumo wrestler dies

TOKYO—A 17-YEAR-OLD ROOKIE SUMO WRESTLER has died after he was taken ill in a practice session ahead of his second career tournament, police said Thursday. Tokitaizan, whose real name is Takashi Saito, was confirmed dead after being rushed to hospital in Inuyama near Nagoya, central Japan, from his stable's local training camp on Tuesday. A post-mortem was to be performed on Saito. Press reports said Saito had died of an acute heart failure, although his face bore scratches and bruises from hard-clashing practice matches with senior stable mates in the morning. The wrestlers were preparing for the bi-monthly 15-day tournament due to start on July 8 in Nagoya. Saito, who quit senior high school and joined the Tokyo-based stable in April, made his debut in a May tournament, the reports said. *AFP*



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Surge in 'hot money' inflows continues

Portfolio investments as of mid-June up 137%

By Daxim L. Lucas

PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS OR 'HOT MONEY' CONtinued to flow into the red-hot stock market as of mid-June, as foreign investors kept their bullish outlook on the country's economic prospects, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed.

More importantly, the latest numbers on portfolio investments reveal an eight-week streak of rising net inflows into the country's financial markets—unbroken despite the increasing wariness over the rapid rise of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) index.

According to the BSP, net portfolio investments from the start of the year to the week ending June 15, 2007 hit $1.795 billion. This represents a 137-percent increase from the $756.61 million in net foreign investments in the same period last year.

"The increase was due to investments in the stock market, given good corporate performance and the economic growth outlook," BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said in a text message.

Portfolio investments or hot money refers to assets handled by fund managers and invested in marketable securities like stocks, government bonds, corporate debt and money market placements.

Unlike foreign direct investments which are long-term purchases of equity or capital equipment, hot money can enter and exit financial markets rapidly, contributing to sharp price appreciation or depreciation when they move.

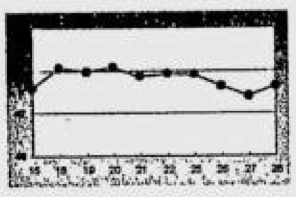
From the start of the year until June 15, a total of $6.591 billion in hot money entered the country, while $4.795 billion was repatriated.

This compares favorably with the figures in the same period last year, when $3.118 billion in portfolio funds entered the local financial markets while $2.362 billion was repatriated.

SURGE/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



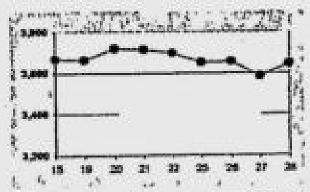
JUNE

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P46.35 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 28, 2007

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks close 1.6% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.6 percent higher, lifted by the rebound on Wall Street overnight ahead of the Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates, dealers said.

Market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) helped propel the key index higher as it tracked the overnight gains in its American Depositary Receipts.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 57.79 points at 3,645 after trading between 3,652.47 and 3,587.21 points.

STOCKS/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE

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- **Gov't** to borrow P82B from domestic market /B5

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RP's foreign debt continues to decline

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE TOTAL DEBT OWED BY THE COUNTRY'S public and private sectors continued to decline on a year-on-year basis, as improving financial conditions and the low interest rate environment prompted more borrowers to prepay or refinance their loans.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the country's debt stock declined by $1.3 billion or 2.3 percent to $54 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2007 from the $55.3 billion reported in the same period last year.

"This is due mainly to net principal repayments, including prepayments of $3.1 billion, of which $2.5 billion pertained to future maturities," BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

On a quarter-to-quarter basis, however, the latest data showed a slight increase from the end-2006 level of $53.4 billion, with the expansion attributed to the seasonal rise in the government's borrowings during the first quarter.

This resulted in net inflows of $1.6 billion, which was partially offset by net repayments by the private sector.

Despite the moderate growth in debt stock during the quarter, other major external debt indicators showed continued improvements, the BSP said.

Gross international reserves—the dollar stock held by the central bank—stood at $24.7 billion during the period, representing 4.8 times the level of short-term debt based on remaining maturity.

Short-term accounts under the remaining maturity concept include not only loans with original maturities of one year or less, but also amortizations of medium- and long-term loans falling due within the next 12 months.

The same ratios would reach five times and 2.5 times, respectively, using the GIR level of $25.6 billion at the end of May, BSP said.

For the first quarter, the external debt service ratio, or percentage of the country's total and principal interest payments to total exports of goods and services was estimated at 12.1 percent.

IC zeroes in on vehicle policy scams

With new set of guidelines, regulator hopes to stamp out insurance fraud

By Michelle V. Remo

A NEW SYSTEM REGULATING THE vehicle insurance business will be put in place in July—a move the Insurance Commission claims will put an end to vehicular policy fraud.

In a roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER's business reporters and editors, Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said her office was already preparing all the administrative measures needed for the adoption of the new system on July 24.

Under the new system, Escobillo said, an individual who needs to renew the registration of his or her vehicle will have to first buy an insurance policy. The insurance broker or agent will then have to record the purchase, which will be captured in the linked databases of the Insurance Commission and the Land Transportation Office.

The LTO will only make the registration official if it sees in its database that the owner has purchased a comprehensive third-party liability (CTPL) insurance policy.

Escobillo also said that her office would release an official list of nonlife insurance companies that are licensed to sell CTPL policies, and the list will be regularly updated in a website that will be put up solely for this purpose. This is to help ensure that the public would not be fooled into buying policies from illegitimate insurers, she said.

The current system of regulation has loopholes that have resulted in the purchase of fake CTPL policies. Escobillo said that there is no link yet between the databases of the LTO and the IC, and that the list of legitimate insurance firms is poorly updated.

The insurance chief said she wanted the new system to be in place much earlier, but the regulator was prevented by an existing contract between the government and a private firm called D-Tech, which is responsible for providing the system that should help vehicle owners verify whether an insurance firm selling them policies are still licensed to operate.

The contract will expire on July 24. By then, the new system shall be in place, Escobillo said.

The adoption of a new system to regulate the vehicle insurance business was also hampered earlier by the desire of the Government Service Insurance System to take over the business.

ESCOBILLO

Under the GSIS proposal, vehicle owners need not buy CTPL policies from vendors because insurance payments would be automatic once they settled registration and other fees with the LTO. The insurance will be provided solely by the GSIS, which will then tap private sector players to become its reinsurers.

But Escobillo opposed the GSIS proposal, saying that it would only lead to a monopoly of the vehicle insurance business. She added that because the GSIS is not directly under the supervision of the IC, her office would have difficulty regulating the vehicle insurance business if the GSIS proposal was adopted.

"I don't believe in monopoly. But we really have to put a facility that will ensure that the current problems are resolved," Escobillo said.

Pancake House set to capture Malaysia, Vietnam markets

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

RESTAURANT CHAIN PANCAKE House Inc. is making a bold bid to capture new and growing markets in Malaysia and Vietnam, with the launch of its core restaurant brand and a Japanese fast food brand in those territories later this year.

Following a stockholder's meeting yesterday, Pancake House chair and chief executive officer Martin P. Lorenzo said the company is set to open two Pancake House restaurants in Kuala Lumpur this year and expand this brand to another three stores by next year.

"Kuala Lumpur, we believe, is a strong market for Pancake House," Lorenzo said. "It has a large population with purchasing power, and the population is young. And it is becoming very western, despite being Muslim."

He also said that in Malaysia, the Pancake House menu will carry Western type of dishes, such as pancakes and waffles, as well as food that cater to the local palate, such as curry-based dishes, and tacos served with chicken, instead of pork, which is not allowed in that country.

In Vietnam, Lorenzo said it plans to introduce its popular Teriyaki Boy Japanese fast food brand by February next year. Pancake House will partner with a property firm in that country for the launch.

Initially, Pancake House plans to spend P40 to P50 million for its five stores in Malaysia or approximately P8 to P10 million per store. After setting up five stores in Malaysia, Pancake House plans to franchise its other future stores.

The same budget is applied for its Vietnam venture.

Giving fisheries a break

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

ON JUNE 24, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL officials of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources initiated an innovative program and traded places with fisherfolk leaders from various provinces.

"Through this immersion program, we hope that fish growers would have a better grasp of the measures we are implementing to promote and safeguard their interests, while government officials would better understand the concerns and needs of our fisherfolk," Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said.

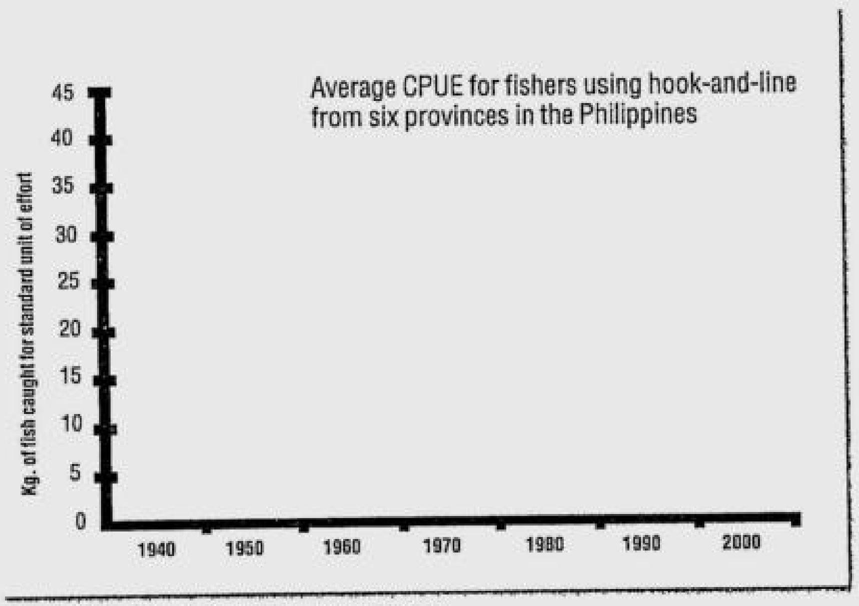
This is a big break for our fishers who feel they have long been neglected. As a matter of fact, legislators like Rep. Luis Villafuerte have recommended that a separate department of fisheries be created—a move already undertaken by several developing nations with long coastlines.

No in charge

At present, there is no one in charge of the fisheries sector at the DA. It has been recommended that an undersecretary's position be created, with the mandate to tend to this large and impoverished sector full time.

Fisheries is generally divided into three sub-sectors: Aquaculture, commercial fishers and municipal fishers. The municipal fishers make up 95 percent of this sector, or 1.7 million people, and they are the poorest in the Philippines.

The table above partially explains why this is so. It is a representation of the average catch per unit effort (CPUE) of municipal fishers, using hook and line from six provinces in the Philippines.



SOURCE: Philippine Fisheries in Crisis: A Framework for Management by Stuart J. Green, Alan T. White, Jimely O. Flores, Marciano F. Carreon III, Asuncion E. Sia

The sad state of fisheries is due to many factors: Dynamite fishing, overfishing, coastal degradation, pollution and the destruction of the ecological balance. The result is coastal poverty, with attendant problems in health, unemployment and education.

On June 22, the Tambuyog Development Center stated that, of the six memorandums of agreement signed between the Philippines and China, not one would benefit the country's municipal fishers.

But the DA should be commended for its efforts to identify the country's priorities, that resulted in the agri-fisheries agreements just signed. There is even a "cooperation agenda" between the two countries, where leaders are required to resolve food security issues and provide livelihood and poverty alleviation.

But after studying the agreements just signed, TDC executive director Arsenio Tanchuling said that the six MOAs did not address the needs of municipal fishers.

"(The agreements were) geared towards establishing more mariculture parks in Visayas and Mindanao, and building post-harvest and market facilities," Tanchuling said. "Where are the municipal fishers in all of this?"

We believe there is a win-win solution to this dilemma. With Yap's laudable policy of encouraging stakeholder participation, fisherfolk leaders can give suggestions on how these post-harvest and market facilities can be designed to help small fishers as well.

Fishers should also get a break by playing a more important role in other areas such as the environment.

Last Dec. 27, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Philippine Information Agency jointly launched an environmental effort called the Sigaw ng Kalikasan.

During the ceremonies, three sectors were heard: The government, the NGOs and the business sector.

The agriculture (including fisheries) sector was not heard, despite the fact that 70 percent of all our jobs are due directly or indirectly to this sector.

In particular, the environment affects fisheries in a very significant way. Just look at the table and you will see how the ecological balance in the sea has been destroyed by environmental abuse and neglect.

Recommendations

In conclusion, three recommendations have been made to give bigger breaks for our fishers:

- An undersecretary devoted completely to fisheries and aquatic resources;
- The involvement of fishers in all business and livelihood opportunities, such as the recently signed MOAs between China and the Philippines; and,
- Fisher participation in all areas where they are affected, such as enhancing the environment and preserving ecological balance.

Only with breaks such as these can the fishers fulfill their important role and secure their rightful place in the development of our nation.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

GMA 7 gets PSE nod to conduct maiden offering

GMA NETWORK INC., THE COUNTRY'S SECond largest television network, has secured the approval of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) to undertake its initial public offer that will consist of common shares and deposit receipts.

GMA Network will offer 91.35 million primary common shares and 91.346 million Philippine Deposit Receipts (PDRs) at a price range of P7 and P8.50 apiece, sources said.

The offering is supposed to take place next month.

PDRs are shares that have economic benefits such as cash, stock or property dividends, but entail no voting powers. It also grants the right to its holder to the delivery or sale of a corresponding amount of common shares. PDRs are proposed as a tool to generate interest among institutional investors.

In documents earlier filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), GMA Network said it planned to offer 91.346 million common shares at roughly between P7 and P8.50 apiece.

On the other hand, GMA Holdings Inc., a new corporation organized in the Philippines to issue PDRs, planned to sell 822.115 million deposit receipts.

GMA Network and GMA Holdings are two separate companies.

GMA Network is currently owned and controlled by three major shareholder blocs—the Duavit group, which owns 35 percent; the Jimenez group, with 35 percent; and the Gozon group, with 30 percent.

The underlying common shares in the PDR issue will be owned by GMA Holdings, the PDR issuer. Although holders of the PDRs will enjoy economic rights, they will not have voting rights with respect to the underlying common shares. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Surge in 'hot money' inflows ...

From page B1

The central monetary authority is bullish on the prospects of hot money flows into the country for the rest of the year, given the overall sentiment toward the Philippines' recovery story and the growth of the region as well.

Already, the data compiled by BSP revealed that net inflows from the start of the year until mid-June represent 70 percent of the $2.601 billion in hot money that was retained in local financial markets during the entire 2006, with still six months to go until yearend.

In 2006, the local stock market index rose by 42 percent, buoying expectations for another strong performance this year, given the present trends in fund flows.

So far this year, the index has risen by 22.2 percent.

BSP data on portfolio investments is compiled from the reports of the five main custodian banks through which the bulk of fund flows in and out of the country pass.

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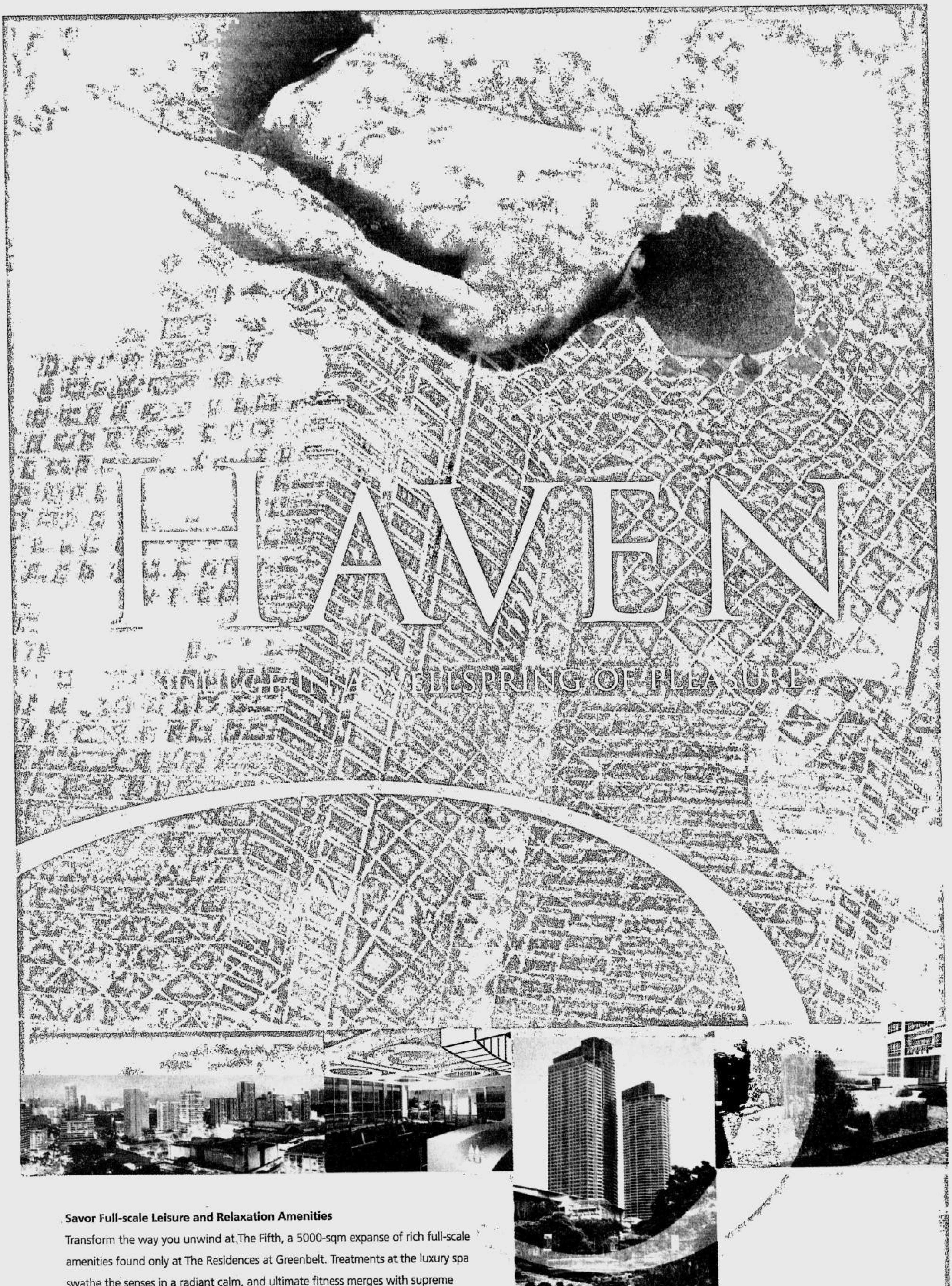

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 28, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	51,200
71.5	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	67.5	68.5	67.5	68.5	604,600
73.5	45.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	69	70	69	69.5	1,817,000
935	630	China Banking Corp.	910	910	910	910	1,350
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20	20	20	20	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.55	0.56	2,190,000
75.5	30.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	68.5	69	68	68.5	4,855,900
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	60	60	59	60	219,900
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	500
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	33	36	33	36	2,475,000
90	42	Security Bank Corp.	83	83.5	83	83.5	34,500
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62	62	61.5	62	221,000
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.9	5.6	4.9	5.2	2,454,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	557,000
14.25	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	13	11.75	12.25	3,839,300
8.8	3.5	Filipino Fund Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	3,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.3	1.3	5,709,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	2,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,675.00	1,675.00	1,670.00	1,670.00	440
5	4.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.35	4.4	4.35	4.4	6,271,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	3	3	2.85	2.85	106,000
1,005.00	210	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	810	860	810	860	9,010
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc	2,150.00	2,150.00	2,145.00	2,150.00	520
1.94	1.2	iVantage Corp	1.82	1.82	1.76	1.78	1,041,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
67.5	41	First Gen Corp.	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	248,500
88	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	85.5	88	85.5	87	495,400
12.75	7	Manila Water Co. Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	5,305,500
108	14	Manila Electric Co. "A"	103	107	103	104	659,780
109	20.5	Manila Electric Co. "B"	104	108	104	106	1,965,550
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.5	15,953,000
5.8	3.5	Petron Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	8,637,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.58	1.58	1.48	1.5	2,655,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	540,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.38	2.44	2.38	2.38	1,734,000
2.75	1.24	CADP Group Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	6,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	8,900
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	54	54	52.5	54	440,900
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.66	590,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.65	576,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	72	75.5	72	75	415,700
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	80	81	80	81	924,500
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.48	130,000
4.3	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	10,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	19	18.25	18.75	2,832,700
0.33	0.19	Vitarich Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	4,940,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.8	1.27	EEI Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	2,112,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	10,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	7.7	7.9	349,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	73,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.8	1.72	1.78	10,394,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	1,347,000
2.5	1.44	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	3,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	210,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.41	0.16	Picop Resources Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.37	21,400,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.72	A. Soriano Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	40,000
0.17	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.15	59,630,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.08	1.12	1.06	1.08	23,082,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.3	2.44	2.26	2.26	2,529,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	2.4	2.4	2.28	2.28	218,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	37,100,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	6,500,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.4	4,922,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	243,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.9	6	5.8	6	25,119,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.08	1.18	1.08	1.14	981,000
1.5	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	180,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.42	2.5	2.4	2.44	4,338,000
5.6	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.2	60,000
590	275	Ayala Corp.	545	555	545	545	559,640
13	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	99,500
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources & Hold'gs Co. Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.6	4.65	195,000
5.4	0.99	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5	5.2	5	5.1	5,523,000
9.8	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9	9.2	9	9.1	3,308,000
2	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.9	2	1.9	2	316,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.1	7.5	7.1	7.3	2,870,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	500,000
14.5	5.5	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	1,147,400
0.8	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.52	0.52	660,000
0.95	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.84	0.75	0.78	2,190,000
30	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	24.25	24.5	23.5	23.75	1,042,100
11.5	0.25	Multitech Investments Corp.	9.4	9.8	9.3	9.4	8,097,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4	4.15	4	4.15	505,000
0.038	0.009	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.032	99,500,000
1.54	0.8	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	100,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.55	0.59	0.55	0.55	6,100,000
1.92	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	20,000
432.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	405	427.5	405	427.5	44,860
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.64	749,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.55	0.58	0.55	0.57	30,760,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	220,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.46	202,000
0.75	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.52	0.58	0.52	0.53	12,560,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.96	0.86	0.87	1,270,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.72	346,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.84	0.9	0.84	0.86	1,890,000
19.25	8.96	Ayala Land Inc.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	19,827,000
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	2,175,000
4.7	1.86	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.4	82,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	115,000
0.78	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.77	8,280,000
0.83	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.57	0.61	0.57	0.57	20,260,000
3.25	0.72	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	73,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.87	0.85	0.86	28,730,000
0.32	0.032	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.26	0.3	92,820,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.12	1.16	1.1	1.12	16,254,000
2.44	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.18	2.2	2.16	2.16	41,938,000
0.39	0.0525	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.37	0.39	0.32	0.39	54,730,000
0.39	0.0525	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.39	14,380,000
3.3	2.16	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	55,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	24,300,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	2,700,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.93	1.02	0.93	0.97	12,810,000
4.4	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.05	4	4.05	20,160,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	80,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.54	0.54	1,750,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.66	0.67	11,090,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.3	6.8	6.3	6.5	420,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	2,856,500
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.5	429,000
12	5.84	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.25	7,288,500
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	1.04	1.06	1	1	5,900,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.27	0.29	13,740,000
6.6	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.6	5,493,000
		MEDIA					
34	14.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	87,800
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	57,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	945,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,365.00	1,370.00	1,360.00	1,365.00	288,420
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,640.00	2,685.00	2,640.00	2,670.00	999,050
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	1,535,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.3	13,180,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	6.9	7.1	6.9	7	1,751,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	77,200,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	2,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.13	0.145	0.13	0.135	29,690,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.72	1,054,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	138,200,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	4.1	4.3	4	4.05	3,142,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	750,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	145,000
32	13.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29	29	28.5	28.5	665,200
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2.08	2.1	2.06	2.08	762,000
1.74	0.8	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.44	1.48	106,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	3.8	Acesita (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	3,000
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.7	577,000
5.2	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.9	5	4.9	5	59,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	4	4	4	4	29,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Prods. Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.79	710,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.93	0.93	880,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
5.3	1.88	Macroasia Corp.	4.95	5	4.9	4.9	1,608,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	134,700
30	9.8	Paxys Inc.	24.5	24.75	24.25	24.75	434,500
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	692,400,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	88,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.8	123,000
21.25	7.3	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	17	17	15.75	15.75	4,087,400
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11	12	11	12	33,000
35	20	Benguet Corp. "B"	27.5	27.5	27	27	1,400
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2,000
3.05	0.0646	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.65	2.75	2.6	2.65	49,032,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.29	0.29	0.26	0.27	57,510,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	4,620,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	139,500,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	15,400,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	466,300,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	4,391,000
29.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	100,400
1.36	0.32	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	1,035,000
1.8	0.5	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.28	1.28	5,670,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.24	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.47	4,120,000
0.025	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	99,500,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.022	104,300,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	10	10.25	144,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.023	0.024	0.022	0.023	374,600,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

June 28, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.743494	1.000000	46.4940
Japan	Yen	0.006060	0.008151	0.3790
United Kingdom	Pound	1.486171	1.998900	92.9369
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095126	0.127944	5.9486
Switzerland	Franc	0.605254	0.814067	37.8492
Canada	Dollar	0.694659	0.934317	43.4401
Singapore	Dollar	0.483259	0.649984	30.2204
Australia	Dollar	0.623266	0.838293	38.9756
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.972291	2.652731	123.3361
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198254	0.266652	12.3977
Brunei	Dollar	0.481694	0.647878	30.1224
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000110	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023603	0.031746	1.4760
UAE	Dirham	0.202433	0.272272	12.6590
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.345000	62.5344
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.001078	0.0501
China	Yuan**	0.097587	0.131254	6.1025
Argentina	Peso	0.240419	0.323363	15.0344
Brazil	REAL	0.381475	0.513084	23.8553
Denmark	Kroner	0.134346	0.180695	8.4012
India	Rupee	0.018187	0.024462	1.1373
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213587	0.287274	13.3565
Mexico	New Peso	0.068724	0.092434	4.2976
New Zealand	Dollar	0.565438	0.760514	35.3593
Norway	Kroner	0.125635	0.168979	7.8565
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012291	0.016532	0.7686
South Africa	Rand	0.103929	0.139784	6.4991
Sweden	Kroner	0.108121	0.145423	6.7613
Syria	Pound	0.014323	0.019264	0.8957
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022663	0.030482	1.4172
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000346	0.000466	0.0217

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—June 27, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of June 27, 2007

ICTSI bags new deal in Subic

SUBIC BAY INTERNATIONAL Terminal Corp. (SBITC), a subsidiary of port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc., has bagged a new container terminal contract in Subic.

In a statement, SBITC said it received a notice from the legal department of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) stating that it did not receive any proposal to challenge SBITC's bid to operate and manage the New Container Terminal-1 (NCT-1) at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The deadline for the submission of the Swiss challenge proposal was June 18.

SBMA will award the contract to operate NCT-1 to SBITC subject to the approval of the SBMA board and the concurrence of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, ICTSI said in a statement.

SBITC operates the existing NSD Terminal in Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Its parent firm is a leading developer in international container terminal operations and has an experience record that spans container terminal operation in six continents. *Elizabeth Lacson*

Stocks . . .

From page B1

The all-share index rose 42.48 points or 1.84 percent to 2,345.22.

There were 100 advancers and 23 decliners, while 55 stocks were unchanged.

Volume traded reached 3.41 billion shares worth P6.65 billion.

"Investors set aside concerns about interest rates as they saw fresh buying opportunities after (Wednesday's) sharp decline," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities. *AFP*

Mactan Economic Zone

PEZA

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

2007 SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT FOR CEBU ECOZONES

1. The *Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)*, through its Corporate Operating Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of Php 12,538,594.48 being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract of 2007 Security Services Requirement for Cebu Ecozones. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs), copy of Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration and proof of enrollment with the BIR Electronic Filing and Payment System (e-FPS) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for the 2007 Security Services Requirement for Cebu Ecozones.
3. Bidders should be PADPAO accredited and have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Bidders must have no existing security services contract with enterprises and/or developers in Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ), Mactan Economic Zone II – Special Economic Zone (MEZ II-SEZ), Mitsumi Realty, Inc.-Special Economic Zone (MRI-SEZ), Cebu Light Industrial Park-Special Economic Zone (CLIP-SEZ), and West Cebu Industrial Park – Special Economic Zone (WCIP-SEZ).
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **7:30 AM to 4:30 PM on 29 June – 13 July 2007.**
5. Interested bidders must submit their Letters of Intent, certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration, and e-FPS enrolment **not later than 13 July 2007** at the address given below and secure the complete set of Bidding Documents therefrom, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00.
6. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened and a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
7. The PEZA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference on 20 July 2007 at 2:00 PM** at the address given below
8. Bidders must submit their Bids at the address given below on or before **2:00 PM of 13 August 2007.** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **13 August 2007 at 2:00 PM** at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above date/s is declared a non-working holiday it will automatically be rescheduled on the next working day (same time).
10. Delivery of Services is required within ten (10) calendar days from date of receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
11. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE
6015 Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 340-0590 to 93
Fax Nos. (032) 340-0594 to 95
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 29 & July 12, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office VI
Majestic Plaza Bldg., #13 J. de Leon St., Iloilo City
Healthline (033) 508-7302 region6@philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Procurement of Information Technology Equipments
Location	PhilHealth PRO VI
Brief Description	(Specifications shall form part of the bid documents)

Quantity	Unit	Article
20	units	Desk Top with UPS
15	units	Thin Client with UPS
5	units	Printers, (Dot Matrix)
7	units	Printers (Heavy Duty Laser Jet)

Approved Budget	Php 2,320,000.00
Delivery Period	20 days

Prospective bidders should have an experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Bid Opening, Bid Security, evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, Performance Security and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activites is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Advertisement of Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	1st Advertisement - June 29, 2007, 8:30 a.m. 2nd Advertisement - July 06, 2007, 8:30 a.m.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 9, 2007, 8:30 a.m., 2nd floor Conference Room
3. Bid Opening	July 23, 2007, 8:30 a.m., 2nd floor Conference Room
4. Post Qualification, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, and other procurement stages	Refer to RA 9184

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP1,000.00 to the PhilHealth PRO VI Cashier.

The PhilHealth assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject any and all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) DR. REYNALDO P. SUCGANG, JR.
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 29 & July 6, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-98-22; 631-0673; Telefax No. 635-9826

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : June 25, 2007
Loan No.: PH-P200
IFB No. : SEDIP-2007-EQPT-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee III (BAC III), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools following the schedule below:

Equipment Package	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Date of Bid Opening
A. Lot 1, General Science, Lot 2, Biology and Lot 3, Chemistry Equipment	Starting on July 9, 2007	August 23, 2007
B. Lot 1, Industrial Arts Equipment: Sub-Lot A (5 items) Rebid		

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot or sub-lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or more lots.
4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling, supply, delivery and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.
5. Interested eligible bidders may inspect and obtain the bidding documents at the SEDIP-NPMO Procurement Unit, Room 504 Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City with Tel. Nos. (632) 632-0456 and 637-5833. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph;http//www.procurementservice.org** or **http://ww.sedip.ph**
6. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date indicated in paragraph 2 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) in cash for each equipment package.
7. All bids shall be submitted together with the required bid security of not less than 2% of the total bid amount on the date indicated in paragraph 2 not later than 10:00 am at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
8. A pre-bid conference for the two (2) equipment packages shall be held at the venue indicated in paragraph 7 on July 23, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.
9. The DepED reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of contract without incurring any liabilities to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) TERESITA G. INCIONG
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC III

(PDI – June 29 & 30, 2007)

Gov't to borrow ₱82B from domestic market

Bureau of Treasury resuming issuance of T-bills in 3rd quarter

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS SET to borrow P82 billion from the domestic capital market in the third quarter of the year to help finance its expenditure that could not be covered by its revenue collections.

The amount is lower than the P84 billion in borrowings programmed for the second quarter, but is higher than the P64 billion in domestic borrowings recorded in the third quarter of last year.

Of the amount, P42 billion will be raised through the issuance of treasury bonds, while the other P40 billion will come from the flotation of treasury bills.

After canceling auctions for short-term government securities this month, the Bureau of the Treasury has decided to resume issuing T-bills to raise the required borrowings for the third quarter.

Treasury officials earlier said there was lack of interest in T-bills, making it prudent for the BTr to sell more T-bonds.

The steep drop in interest rates was blamed for the poor market interest in treasury bills. But authorities said investors might have already regained appetite for T-bills, with interest rates already rising.

Under the government's domestic borrowing schedule for the third quarter, T-bills will be issued every other Monday, while auctions for T-bonds will still be held every other Tuesday.

The government will sell P1 billion worth of 91-day and P1.5 billion worth of 182-day bills every auction.

In the meantime, P2.5 billion worth of 364-day T-bills will be made available every auction in July. This will be increased to P3.5 billion for the August and September auctions.

In the case of T-bonds, the government will sell P7 billion every auction. The bonds to be offered will have the following maturity: 4-year, 5-year, 7-year, 10-year and 20-year.

The amount of government securities to be issued in the third quarter will form part of the P260.1 billion worth of domestic borrowings programmed for the entire year.

The scheduled borrowings will help plug the budget deficit to be incurred in the three months to September, which was estimated at P22.7 billion.

The government has also programmed to borrow $2.466 billion from foreign sources, including official development assistance and the international capital market.

Early this year, the government had raised $1 billion from selling bonds in the foreign market.

This year, the government targets to post a deficit of only P63 billion, lower than the P64.8 billion recorded last year.

In the first five months of the year, however, the government was still off track to its full-year goal because of shortfalls in tax collection.

In January to May, the Bureau of Internal Revenue collected P285.59 billion in taxes. This was P28.62 billion short of the P314.21-billion goal for the period.

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TRADE Secretary Peter Favila (left) and SMIC vice chair Henry Sy Jr. led the groundbreaking ceremony for SMIC's latest built-to-suit project. With them were eTelecar chair Fred Ayala, Peza Director General Lilia de Lima, Barangay Bel-Air chair Constancia Lichauco, and eTelecare vice president Benedict Hernandez.

SM putting up Makati Cyberzone

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. BROKE GROUND on its latest built-to-suit project in Makati City.

The 4-story SM Makati Cyberzone, which will be completed by the second quarter of 2008, will be occupied by eTelecare Global Solutions.

To be built on Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. the facility will have a gross floor area of 18,700 square meters.

"With the growing presence of the BPO industry comes also the growing need for space and integrated facilities., said SMIC vice chair Henry Sy Jr.

Sy said the SM group was more than prepared to meet those needs.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who was among the guests during the groundbreaking, said the DTI and other government agencies, were undertaking efforts to support and further enhance the skills and capabilities of workers in the contact center and the IT-enabled services sector. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

PAL posts record profit of $140M

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES YESTERDAY REPORTed a net income of $140.3 million for its financial year ending March 31, 2007.

This was the largest profit recorded by PAL in its 66-year history and an affirmation of its robust financial health eight years into its restructuring program.

In a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), PAL said the surplus was a big improvement over the previous fiscal year's profit of $22.8 million.

It was also PAL's third straight annual profit, a modest streak achieved in spite of adverse operating conditions, including skyrocketing fuel prices, the liberalization of the aviation industry, continuing global terrorist threats and other issues affecting travel.

"These solid results confirm that PAL is fully recovered and is now firmly on track toward long-term profitability," said PAL president Jaime J. Bautista.

"We are consolidating these gains by reinvesting them in the business in order to further improve our products and services," he added.

Last year's record profit came on the back of a $158.4 million or 12.8 percent rise in revenue, which reached a new high of $1.39 billion.

PRULINK | **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week June 26, 2007	Last Week June 19, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.60807	1.61489
Managed Fund - Peso	1.90822	1.91633
Growth Fund - Peso	1.94436	1.95695
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3762	1.3799

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE Wealth Builder and Wealth SECURE

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure

	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
	June 25, 2007	June 18, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.275071	1.271606
Balanced Fund	1.487980	1.480791
Equity Fund	1.836187	1.823497

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

CCAP
Contact Center Association of the Philippines

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TO BE PUBLISHED ON JULY 10, 2007

Details on advertising in this supplement are as follows:

Full Page	7 cols x 30 cms	P 69,300.00
Half Page	7 cols x 15 cms	P 34,650.00
Centerspread	14 cols x 30 cms	P 159,390.00 + 15% surcharge

For a Full Color ad, 80% surcharge will be added to the total amount of the ad placement.

For those interested in advertising in the CCAP Expo 2007 Supplement, please call Ms. Emy B. Limbo at 8114361, 8114370, 8114012, 8925578.

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Park Square 1	(02) 812-6734
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SM Mall of Asia	(02) 556-0151
Cyberzone, SM Megamall	(02) 633-1723
SM Southmall	(02) 506-9203
Villman	
Park Square 1	(02) 752-7778, 816-7678
Makati-Ayala	(02) 892-2222, 893-6935 to 41
SM Mall of Asia	(02) 556-0200, 901-1407
Cyberzone, SM City	(02) 926-7322 to 23
Cyberzone, SM Megamall	(02) 683-0532 to 33
Pag-asa	(02) 929-0411, 920-8484 to 87
Complink	
Robinsons Galleria	(02) 632-9896 to 97, 634-5650
Cyberzone, SM North EDSA	(02) 920-9140 to 41
Cyberzone, Megamall	(02) 631-9901, 631-6859
Park Square 1	(02) 893-1489, 893-1491, 893-1493
Park Square 1	(02) 818-4516
Alabang Town Center	(02) 775-0140 to 41
Shangri-la Plaza	(02) 637-4444
Electroworld	
Alabang Town Center	(02) 772-3254
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Cyberzone, SM North EDSA	(02) 925-5688
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SM Megamall	(02) 633-1722
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RP utility vehicle gets mixed reviews

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MAKERS OF THE RECENTLY launched prototype Philippine Utility Vehicle said they were preparing for mass production even as the PhUV drew mixed reactions from motoring enthusiasts.

Ferdinand Raquelsantos, director of the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacters Association of the Philippines, said the group "was flooded with inquiries" both during and a few days after the product's launch last June 12.

Raquelsantos said those interested were from government and private institutions, corporations, homeowners' associations and private individuals.

"Some were wondering if the PhUV was really locally assembled, considering its export quality and finish," Raquelsantos said.

"Yes, it is made from more than 300 parts that our members made and which are of the same quality as those we supply as original equipment to local vehicle assemblers," he added.

He added that others liked its boxy, sturdy and utilitarian looks and the big passenger and luggage space that conform to the current trend in auto design.

Still, the same boxy features drew flak from local motoring enthusiasts.

Raquelsantos said, however, that the MVPMAP believed that the PhUV was getting the right reactions from its target market—those who want a utility vehicle made of brand new parts at affordable prices.

"Of course there would be negative reactions, but this would probably come from people who have the money and could afford vehicles that are custom-built," he said.

The MVPMAP director said his group would first entertain institutional orders on a job order basis to enable them to iron out assembly line issues for mass manufacturing.

"Also, we need to secure the right package of government incentives before we can really embark on mass production," he said.

San Miguel eyes 10 grain centers

By Amy R. Remo

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONGLOMERATE San Miguel Corp. has expressed "high interest" in putting up 10 grain centers for corn worth roughly P5 billion, according to an agriculture official.

Frisco Malabanan, executive director of the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani Rice Program, said in a briefing yesterday that the Department of Agriculture was in talks with San Miguel president and CEO Ramon Ang concerning the project.

San Miguel buys yellow corn for its broiler and aquatic feeds business.

"We are encouraging San Miguel to push through with this project as these centers could benefit corn farmers, processors and end-users," said Malabanan.

Malabanan said San Miguel's main purpose for putting up these grain centers was to help stabilize corn prices.

Corn is a closely watched commodity because fluctuations in selling prices affect the price of feed.

It currently trades at about P13 a kilo.

Malabanan said the proposed grain centers with silos, dryers and shellers would be put up in corn-producing areas such as Quirino, Cagayan, Isabela, Occidental Mindoro, Saranggani, Pampanga, Bukidnon, Maguindanao, Pangasinan and North Cotabato.

Although the project is still in the "exploratory stage", Malabanan said the DA and San Miguel were scheduled to go to Mindanao next month to inspect two grain centers in the region.

For its part, DA would provide technical and marketing assistance to San Miguel and help corn farmers reach their target production to make full use of the grain centers.

DA would also provide farmers with necessary postharvest facilities and corn hybrid seeds.

With these seeds, facilities and centers, Malabanan said the DA and San Miguel were confident of meeting corn production targets.

For this year, the DA targets corn production to reach 6.92 million metric tons, following the implementation of special projects aimed at enhancing the profitability of corn growers.

DA is also undertaking a massive corn planting program this year that would involve the use of hybrid seeds in at least 132,000 hectares of farmland all over the country.

This will help the poultry and livestock sectors cope with rising prices of corn.

JG Summit to retire dollar debt

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE FLAGSHIP FIRM OF CHINESE-FILIPINO tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. will pay off a large dollar-denominated bond issue when it matures next year.

In an interview, JG Summit Holdings Inc. president and CEO Lance Gokongwei said the firm was evaluating repayment options for its $300-million bond, including retiring it using internally generated funds,

"This is a year away so we're assessing the options of repaying and refinancing it," he said after the company's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday.

He explained that the firm's strong cash position had given JG Summit the option to repay the obligation even without a refinancing program—borrowing at a cheaper interest rate to retire a more expensive loan—although this remains an option.

Gokongwei said the holding firm, which has food manufacturing, property, telecommunications and airline units, may also use dollar- or peso-denominated financing to replace the loan, depending on which scheme proves to be the most efficient.

The planned retirement of bonds follows the move of its Universal Robina Corp. food subsidiary to retire ahead of schedule $110 million in bonds maturing next year.

At the same time, Gokongwei said that the bulk of the conglomerate's P25-billion capital expenditure program this year would be spent for the expansion of the Sun Cellular brand of its Digital Telecommunications Phils. unit.

The rest would go to Robinsons Land Corp., which has also rolled out high-rise real estate projects in recent months to take advantage of the booming property market.

Gokongwei said he expected the conglomerate to report strong revenues in 2007 although he declined to go into specifics.

"We think we'll do substantially better this year than last year," he said. "The food, property and airline businesses are doing quite well."

Tokyo firm to share nuke expertise

By Abigail L. Ho

TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER CO. (TEPCO), one of the companies that bought Atlanta-based Mirant Corp.'s Philippine assets, expressed its commitment to help the country go into nuclear power generation, should the government decide to do so.

In an interview, Tepco internal affairs department general manager Toshiro Kudama said the company has enough expertise in nuclear power generation to extend technical assistance to the Philippines.

"We're ready to assist, but that's not for us to decide. This is not a decision to be made by a private company but by the government. It could also be a government-to-government deal," Kudama said.

Tepco owns and operates 17 nuclear reactors - 10 in Fukushima Prefecture and seven in Niigata Kashiwazaki Kariwa. These have a total capacity of 17,308 megawatts.

"In Japan, 80 percent of our fuels are imported, which is why we diversified our fuels. We're very reliant on nuclear. Nuclear power is key for us," Kumada said.

He said the company's nuclear power plants were considered baseload plants. Nuclear power accounts for 40 percent of Tepco's total electricity output.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that in preparation for a possible entry into nuclear power generation, the government was actively building a human resource pool that would have enough nuclear scientists and technical experts to undertake such projects.

He said nuclear power generation was a complicated matter that required long-term planning and intensive human resource training.

"It will take an estimated 15 years to train experts, study, decide and implement this option," he said.

Instead of just jumping on the nuclear bandwagon with neighbors Vietnam and Indonesia, he said the government was now finalizing a Human Resource Development program that would develop a pool of experts to study various aspects of nuclear power plant operations, including choosing appropriate sites, safety and security, and proper waste disposal.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2007-013-g

BIDDING FOR THE LEASE OF ADDITIONAL WAREHOUSE FOR MOTORPOOL AND SUPPLY THROUGH NEGOTIATED PROCUREMENT

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation** (PhilHealth), through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2006 and continuing appropriation of 2007, intends to apply the sum of **PhP 4,320,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Bidding for the Lease of Additional Warehouse for Motorpool and Supply Through Negotiated Procurement. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from the following eligible Bidders for the said lease:

Name of Supplier	Address
Max and Gilda Morales	C. Raymundo, Pasig City
Greenpark Realty	E. Rodriguez Ave. Brgy. Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
Joan de los Santos	Pioneer St. Kapitolyo, Pasig City

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

I. Location

The Location of the warehouse shall be within a four (4) kilometer radius from the Citystate Centre and the area must not be prone to flooding.

II. Size

The floor area of the warehouse should be at least 1,200 sq m. It may be a single unit or two (2) separate units provided that both are within a common compound.

III. Drainage System

The warehouse must have an existing and working drainage system.

IV. Basic Term

The term of the contract shall be for a period of two (2) years subject to renewal.

V. Documentary Requirements

1. License / Permit - Business Permit
2. Others - Floor Plan

VI. Other Conditions that should be included in the Contract

1. Repair and washing of vehicles shall be allowed at least in one half portion of the warehouse.
2. Termite Control - at least once a year
3. Pest and Rodent Control - every three (3) months

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents should be purchased by interested Bidders from **June 28 – July 6, 2007** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **PhP 5,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **July 9, 2007 at 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room** on or before **July 23, 2007, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on July 23, 2007, 10:30 a.m. at the OSBAC Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CY 2005 to CY 2006 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required by PhilHealth to be submitted.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
MR. JOSEPH O. VERGARA
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
e-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
Chairperson, *Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services*

(PDI - June 29, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
NEW BOMBAY FOODS, INC. G/F Sagittarius II Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Sudarshan Sarkar	Chef
NEW BOMBAY FOOD, INC. G/F Sagittarius II Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Pashupati Raturi	Chef
LEVI STRAUSS (PHIL.) INC. 2264 Chino Roces Ave Extension, Makati City	Manuel Garcia Jornet	Plant Manager
KARAN SOKHAL LENDING & TRADING CORP. 2273 P. Binay St., Bangkal, Makati City	Harmesh Lal	General Manager
I-MERGE ONLINE, INC. 7480 Bagtikan St. cor. Sacred Heart Ext., San Antonio Vill., Makati City	Masami Kondo	Technical Consultant
DENSO TECHNO PHILIPPINES INC. 21/F BPPI Buendia Center, Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Takayoshi Miyata	Manager
AMBERGRIS SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 31/F Discovery Center, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Anthony Wayne Brewster	Customer Interaction Associate
YESON TRAVEL & TOURS SERVICES MANILA, INC. 225 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Min Wook Hwang	General Manager
NOVARTIS HEALTHCARE PHILIPPINES, INC. 2/F Asian Reinsurance Bldg., Salcedo cor. Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Peter Goldschmidt	CPO Head and Country Head
BPI/MS INSURANCE CORPORATION 16/F Ayala-Life FGU Center, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yasuhiro Komura	Associate Director
DIGITAL WHOLESALERS DISCOUNTERS CORP. 2699 Ma. Aurora St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Anthony Constantinou	President
LIN'S INT'L EDUCATION MANAGEMENT GROUP OF COS., INC. 64 Rosal St., Villa Teresa Subd., Marulas, Valenzuela City	Yu-Chun Lin	Operations Manager
CCK CITY NETWORK, INC. Unit 3004 Summit One Office Tower, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	Chitoshi Aota	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 338-2013 & 303-[illegible].

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI – June 29, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632)920-6401*(632)920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph * Website http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
IAEB No. 2007-018 - Civil

FACE-LIFTING OF SSS BACOLOD BRANCH OFFICE LOCATED at 2nd St. corner Lacson St., Bacolod City (Re-publication)

FACE-LIFTING OF EXISTING BUILDING, THE WORKS INVOLVE CLEANING AND REPAINTING OF EXTERIOR WALLS, CLEANING AND REPLACEMENT OF PANEL WINDOWS, AND OTHER RELATED WORKS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, through the 2007 Approved Budget for Maintenance/Repair Building – Repairs and Renovations intends to apply the sum of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P1,200,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Face-lifting Project of SSS Owned Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility for *the FACE-LIFTING OF SSS BACOLOD BRANCH OFFICE.* Bidders should posses a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs for the above-mentioned projects on or before **July 13, 2007,** up to 5:00 p.m. at the *Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone nos. 922-2091 & 924-7380 OR at the Local BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, SSS Building, Lacson St., Bacolod City* with telephone nos. (034) 709-0415 local 220 & (034) 434-5130 (fax no.) and secure therefrom **Part I of the Bidding Documents consisting of the Eligibility Requirements.** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated in a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **July 23, 2007, 2:30 p.m.** at ***the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City OR at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Building, Lacson St., Bacolod City.*** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents at the **Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City OR at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Bldg., Bacolod City, on July 23, 2007, 2:30 p.m.** Any Eligibility Documents submitted after this deadline shall be declared "Late" and shall not be accepted by the Bids and Awards Committee. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
6. **Part II of the Bidding Documents** may be purchased by the Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P1,500.00.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **July 31, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
7. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **August 06, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.,** Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Building, Lacson St., Bacolod City
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the **Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Building, Lacson St., Bacolod City on August 20, 2007 not later than 2:00 p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in a form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be conducted on **August 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., Conference Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Building, Lacson St., Bacolod City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. Completion of the works is required by 60 calendar days from receipt of **Job Order (JO) issued by SSS, BAC or from receipt of Notice to Proceed** issued by the SSS Bacolod City, whichever comes first.
10. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2091; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - June 29, 2007)

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MALE OR FEMALE

GRADUATE OF BS CHEM. OR CHEMICAL ENGR.
WILLING TO UNDERGO TRAINING IN TEXTILE FINISHING
NOT MORE THAN 30 YEARS OLD

FOR DETAILS – PLEASE CALL 362-83-21 to 24

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **M.R. INTERNATIONAL TALENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES** has changed its office business address:

FROM : Unit 2-B, Columbian International Tower, 500 Santol Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila
TO : 1549 B. Luz Henson Bldg., Mabini Street, Ermita, Manila

(PDI - June 29, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Ortiz Agency & Employment Services, Inc.** has temporarily stopped recruitment operations effective immediately due to market decline.

(PDI - June 29, 2007)

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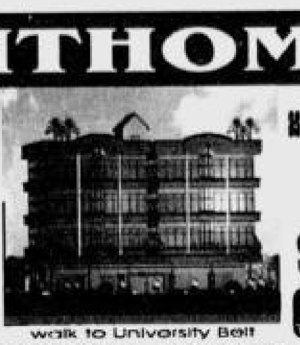

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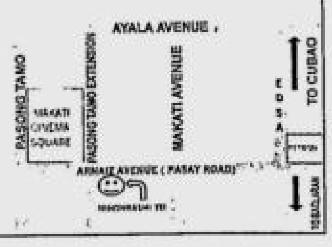

Republic of the Philippines
WESTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY
Zamboanga City
Website: http://www.wmsu.edu.ph

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Western Mindanao State University formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **WESTERN MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY** is now open. Interested applicants are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by CHED Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo, Jr.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- Preferably a holder of an earned doctorate degree;
- Must not be more than 60 years old at the time of application;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator for at least five (5) years preferably in the academe; and
- Must not have record of criminal, civil and/or administrative conviction.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation Clearance;
- Ombudsman Clearance;
- Sandiganbayan Clearance;
- Civil Service Commission Clearance and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (under oath) and authenticated/certified supporting documents;
- Platform of governance as administrator;
- Authenticated Birth Certificate;
- Under Oath CSC Form 212; and
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician.

Interested applicants for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before August 09, 2007 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/f, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690
Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

OR

ENGR. ARMANDO A. ARQUIZA
University and Board Secretary
Western Mindanao State University
7000 Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 991-3065, (062) 991-1771 loc 1 and loc 2, (062) 991-1040
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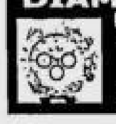

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JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC., 100 C. Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of Dec. 2006 & Jan. 2007 on **July 18, 2007 at 9 a.m.** J. Lanuza – *Auctioneer.*

(PDI–June 29, 2007)

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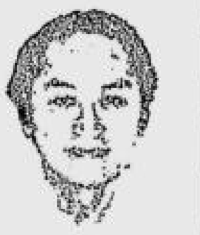
OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Don Manuel Cancio
(November 23, 1910 - June 29, 2002)

On the occasion of the 5th Death Anniversary of the late Don Manuel Cancio, his family and friends will offer masses at the following parishes today, June 29, 2007:

MASS SCHEDULE

CHURCH	TIME
Chapel of Saints Padre Pio and Philomena *Goodwill Corporate Center Building* *393 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue* *Makati City*	12:00 nn 6:00 pm
Santuario de San Antonio *Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 am
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia corner Kalayaan Avenue Bel-Air II* *Makati City*	6:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church *National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary* *Quezon Avenue, Quezon City*	6:30 am
Sta. Teresita Parish *43 Kanlaon Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City*	6:00 am
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz Street, Makati City, Metro Manila*	6:30 am
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish *M.H. Del Pilar corner A. Flores* *Ermita, Manila*	12:15 pm
Holy Family Chapel *G/F V-Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center* *San Juan, Metro Manila*	12:00 nn

THE GOODWILL BOOKSTORE FAMILY, MANAGEMENT *AND* STAFF *WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.*

The Ateneo de Manila High School Class of 1956

announces with great sorrow
the demise of its beloved classmate

Antonio O. Paro

Tony departed this life to join his Creator on June 26, 2007 after a debilitating illness endured with uncommon courage, grace and faith in Our Lord.

He leaves behind his beloved wife **Lina**, **Ward**, **Chris**, sister **Inday**, brother-in-law **Boy Monsalud**, nephew **Gilbert** and niece **Krissy**.

He now lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

One of Tony's last text messages to his classmates reads:

In the end only three things matter:
How much we loved, how gently we lived,
and how gracefully we let go
of things not meant for us.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

We, the faculty, students and staff of the **College of Social Work and Community Development**, University of the Philippines in Diliman, express our deep sorrow over the death of our Dean,

DR. ROMEO C. QUIETA

on June 22, 2007.

We offer our love and prayers to Dean Quieta's family in this period of bereavement.

Dean Quieta's remains lie in state at the Holy Family Sub-Parish, Northview 2, Filinvest Subdivision, Q.C. His body will be transferred to the U.P. CSWCD on Saturday, June 30, 2007 where a necrological service will be held at 9:30 a.m. Interment will follow at 3:00 p.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want,
He makes me lie down in green pasture, He leads me
beside quiet waters, He restores my soul"
Psalm 23:1-2

Luzviminda de la Cueva Espadon

of Sevilla, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur
peacefully joined the Lord on June 26, 2007 at the age of 54.

She graduated from Tagudin HS Class of '69 and Centro Escolar University in 1976.

Bebot is survived by husband ROGER and children RYAN, MIMI & ROCKY.

Her remains lie in state at Marian Memorial Chapel at Marcos Hi-way and will be transferred after the Mass at 9 a.m. to the Paraiso Memorial Park on Saturday, June 30, 2007.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

JUDGE DOROTEO B. DE GUZMAN

City Court of Basilan
CFI of Dipolog City and Zamboanga del Norte

Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord on June 24, 2007 at the age of 93.

His loving family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City.

Interment will be on July 1, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the celebration of the 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

In Loving Memory
of the late

EDGARDO TAN MARZAN

September 27, 1958 - May 30, 2007

Peacefully joined our Lord
on May 30, 2007 at the age of 48

and was survived by his
wife **Virginia R. Marzan** and
his sons **Ricardo** and
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Thank you for your prayers,
offerings and presence that made
his passage to eternal life a comfort
and a grace.

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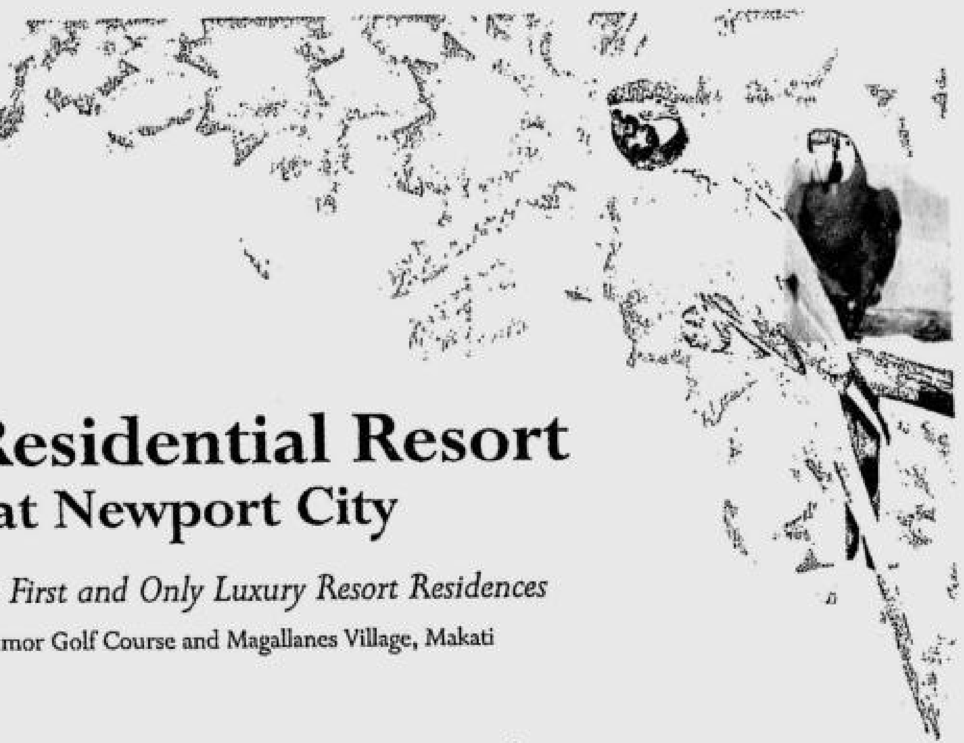

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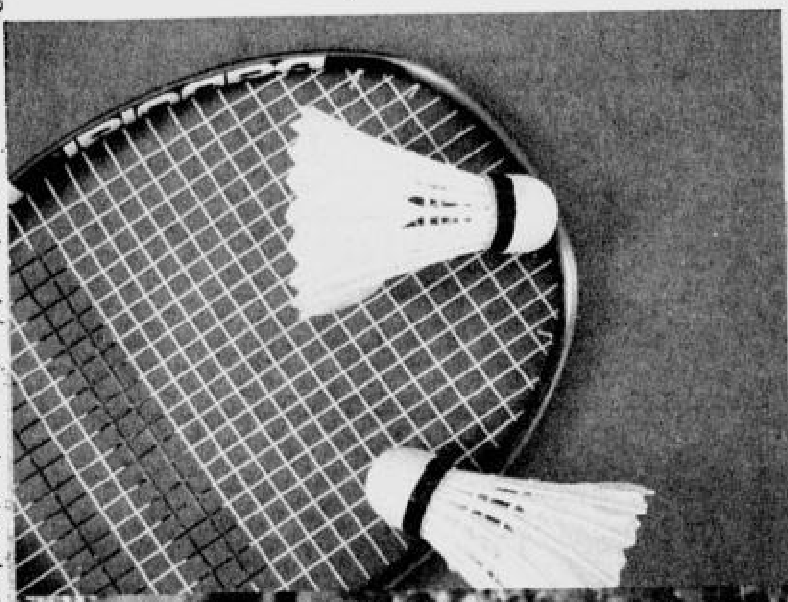

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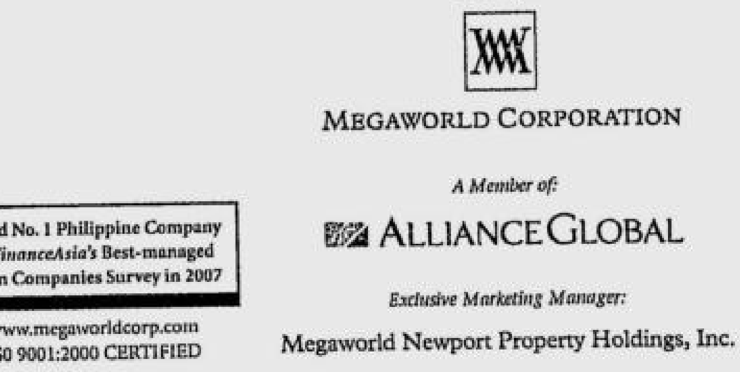
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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Raising the bar on Philippine advertising

(Translation: Stop bad ads!)

By Willy E. Arcilla

(The author recently returned to the Philippines after a career spanning 22 years of working around the Asia-Pacific region for various multinationals and Philippine firms engaged in the FMCG industry. He holds a BS Business Administration degree from the UP College of Business Administration and an MS Industrial Economics degree from the University of Asia-Pacific-Center for Research & Communications. He was a recipient of the PMA Agora Award for Marketing Excellence in Asia-Pacific in 2000).

ANYONE ENGAGED IN MARKETING AND advertising—and even in business—must have heard of the famous quote, "Half of what I spend in advertising is wasted, and the trouble is, I don't know which half!"

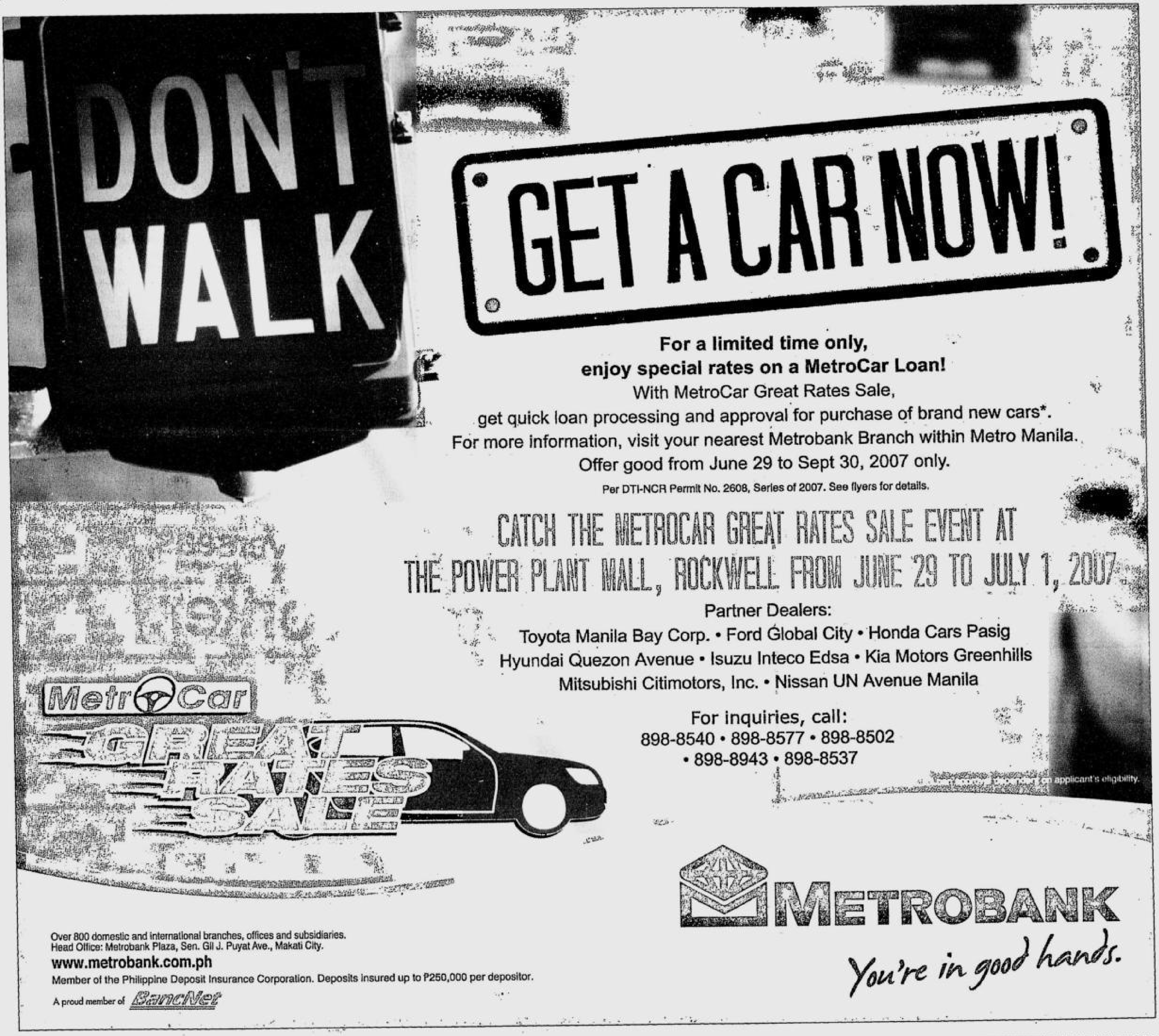
The quote was from a successful American businessman named John Wanamaker who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1838. He pioneered the concept of the department store and introduced bold ideas (even for the present day) such as "One Price. All Goods Returnable!"

He was considered the "Father of Modern Advertising" for having printed the world's first-ever copyrighted store advertisement and introduced the price tag, thus eliminating the need for haggling.

When he died in 1922, his estate was worth $100 million which, in today's present value, would have made him one of the world's richest men. It's fair to say that he must have known what he was saying.

Today, practitioners of advertising and

RAISING/ B2-2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Raising the bar ...

From page B2-1

marketing together with research specialists have developed better measurement tools to evaluate the impact of ad spending that would have helped Wanamaker determine which half of his advertising was being wasted. But there remains a big opportunity for practitioners to maximize "bang for the buck" and cut if not eliminate wastage.

In the Philippines, total advertising spending has been estimated at P150 billion in 2006, or roughly 3 percent of the GDP. If we assume half is wasted, that amounts to P75 billion.

That amount is enough to wipe out the government's projected fiscal deficit of P63 billion this year, or build one million homes for the poor under the Gawad Kalinga movement (at P75,000 per house).

Can't afford

The point is simply this: We can't afford to waste scarce resources, including advertising spending which could be used for more productive activities.

In my career, I have had my share of world-class, good, mediocre and bad advertising. But I have always believed that all advertising must be excellent, in the same way that businesses commit to produce only excellent quality products and services.

A business enterprise depends on the impact of advertising to generate incremental revenues. This is why practitioners of advertising have a serious obligation and should have a sense of mission to deliver effective ads.

We have seen how outstanding introductory ads built new brands into virtual overnight success stories and how great campaigns crossed boundaries and endured the test of time. We have also seen, sadly, how tons of work and piles of money were wasted in bad ads.

Creating impact

There have been many textbook definitions of effective advertising, but I would like to offer one from my own experience.

Excellent advertising is that which accomplishes its desired consumer response at the least possible cost and in the fastest time possible it takes for the campaign to create an impact.

In the Philippines, we have marveled at how the strategic thinking and creative discipline of the leading 4As agencies like McCann-Erickson, J. Walter Thompson, Leo-Burnett, Saatchi, etc. have successfully built some of the country's legendary brands over the years.

Impressed

We were also impressed by the boldness and audacity of agencies like Campaigns (and Grey), the brilliant out-of-the-box work from BBDO-GO, and the creative-cum-media breakthroughs of O&M. Now, finally, Y&R has won for us the elusive and much-coveted Golden Clio, the country's first, for Soroptimist Malaysia

. But the question remains: "How much of the P150 billion in advertising spending has really been effective?" I'm certain that a poll of Pana members and even 4As would show there is truth and relevance to Wanamaker's nearly 100-year-old statement.

The difference is, that over the past century, we are now in a better position to judge which ads work and which don't. The issue today and moving forward is not just how to get better for some of the work, but how to get better for all of the work and all of the time.

Arguments

The arguments for eliminating bad advertising are compelling, and here are 12 of them:

- They fail to achieve the objective of generating incremental revenues.
- They waste the entire cost of the production process—from creative to execution.
- They waste the monumental cost of media spending.
- They add to the competitive clutter.
- They become part of the advertising stock or industry spending that forms the baseline for future media spending and the wrong justification for higher budgets.
- Which in turn worsens clutter, making it even harder for advertising to work.
- This in turn causes consumers to complain of too much advertising, lose interest and trust in advertising hyperbole, causing them to switch off, zap or surf.
- They waste company funds that could have been used, say, for improving product quality or raising staff salaries.
- Which in turn causes management to lose faith in agencies and advertising itself.
- Emboldening the trade to demand higher listing fees, discounts and allowances.
- Forcing management to increase their BTL spending which produces illusory short-term gains, has limited scope and ability to build sustainable brand strength.
- Thus giving rise to alternative vehicles like BTL agencies, events management, etc. which don't have the impact or the efficiencies of strong advertising on mass media, thus further diluting the already stretched A&P budgets of advertisers.

TWO winning ads done by Ogilvy & Mather Philippines

The best motivation for producing and airing ONLY outstanding advertising is clear. It maximizes revenue at minimal costs, which is the classic definition of how to maximize profits. It also reduces the clutter in the airwaves, broadsheets, and outdoor.

Upgrading quality

So how do we help upgrade the quality of our advertising? Here are 12 suggestions.

- Advertisers must demand only world-class excellence from their ad agencies.
- Advertisers can use award-winning ads of competitive agencies as the new benchmark for their own agencies as a concrete example of higher expectations.

It may be hard for incumbent agencies to accept, but ultimately, the best agencies will rise to the creative challenge and deliver, if not exceed client's expectations.

Reject mediocrity

- Ad agencies must commit only to excellent ad campaigns and reject mediocrity.
- Advertisers should ideally test before production and airing to reduce the risks.
- Both advertisers and agencies must measure the business impact of advertising.
- Advertisers must reward agencies for results (i.e., pay for performance), not just pay a fixed fee or a media commission that simply encourages higher spending. If great creative work can require less media spend, then what is the incentive for ad agencies to develop great work if it might reduce their media commission?
- Advertisers and agencies must demand and reward not just effectiveness, but productivity, i.e., maximum results at minimum cost (production + talent + media). The ability to do more with less is the true test of creative genius.
- Advertisers and ad agencies must work together to train and develop creative talent.
- Ad agencies must track their "statistics" just like in the world of pro sports, (e.g., batting averages or field-goal percentages) to measure performance and level up.
- Advertisers and ad agencies must share best practices from their respective organizations, history and around the world to learn from each other and improve.
- Advertisers and ad agencies must humble themselves and admit to their own mediocre or bad ads, and conduct post-mortems not to "witchhunt" but to learn what didn't work.
- Do no harm to existing campaigns that have been proven effective. Don't fix it if it ain't broke, unless you have consumer evidence that a new campaign will take things higher by enhancing brand saliency and strengthening consumer loyalty.

The author can be reached for comments and suggestions at willyarcilla@yahoo.com.

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Ogilvy & Mather Philippines harvests local, international creative awards

OGILVY & MATHER (O&M) PHILIPPINES is on a winning streak this year.

It was the biggest winner at the recent Creative Guild Awards with 12 trophies. Abroad, O&M garnered four metals at the 10th Asia Pacific Advertising Festival, three at the Asian Media Spikes Awards, and one at the 48th Annual Clio Awards.

"One of my greatest fulfillments is for Ogilvy to be recognized for the great creative work that we develop for our clients," said Tina Coscolluela, Ogilvy group managing director.

"What makes it even better is that the work that have won awards have strengthened the brands both in terms of sales results and image. I am confident we will continue to produce even better work and maintain our creative leadership," Coscolluela said.

With these accolades, O&M has further entrenched itself as one of the country's most creative full-service marketing communication agencies.

Recognition

"Such recognition inspires us to continuously raise the bar in producing highly creative and strategic work that help our clients meet their business objectives," said Gavin Simpson, Ogilvy executive creative director. "We take great pride in these awards since they are a testament to great work that works," he said.

O&M received nine Gold Awards in the 2006 Creative Guild Awards for the following creative work:

1. Max's "Dancing Lights" TV commercial—Ad of the Year (Film/TV)
2. Philippine Daily Inquirer's (PDI) "Shoeshine/Barbershop/Pedicab" series—Campaign of the Year (Print)
3. Pond's "Pore" billboard—Ad of the Year (Conventional Outdoor—single)
4. Pond's "Pore"/"Curtain"/"Hiding Board"—Campaign of the Year (Conventional Outdoor—single)
5. PDI's "Volcanic Ash"—Ad of the Year (Nonconventional Outdoor—single)
6. PDI's "Shoeshine" Print Ad—Diwa (Print)
7. Pond's "Curtain" billboard—Best Art Direction
8. The Economist "Predictive Text"—Best Copy
9. PDI "Volcanic Ash"—Best Use of Photography

It also received a Silver Award for Pond's "Curtain" billboard in the Ad of the Year, Conventional Outdoor (Single) category and two bronze metals for Pond's "Hiding Board" billboard for the Conventional Outdoor (single) category and for The Economist's "Predictive Text" billboard in the Nonconventional Outdoor (single) category.

THE VOLCANIC Ash of the INQUIRER: Awardee in Best Use of Photography

Cleans pores. Fights pimples.

POND'S ad: A multiwinner

O&M received one of three gold awards given during the 10th Asia Pacific Advertising Festival (AdFest) recently held in Pattaya, Thailand. The Gold AdFest went to Pond's "Pore" billboard, the only Gold Award in the Single for Billboard/Signboard/Bus Stop Category.

Meanwhile, the posters O&M developed for Philippine Daily Inquirer, Huggies and DHL Worldwide Express each won a Bronze Award.

"Volcanic Ash" was part of Philippine Daily Inquirer's corporate campaign that communicated the dedication and commitment of the publication.

Huggies' "Spill" was based on the print ad that sustained Huggies' positioning as having exceptional absorbency, thus providing superior dryness for babies.

DHL Worldwide Express Phils. "Land Rover" poster featured the competence, reliability and expertise of DHL's couriers.

More awards

O&M won one Silver and two Bronze Awards in the Asian Media Spikes Awards recently held in Bali, Indonesia. It was the only Philippine advertising agency in the roster of winners that actually brought home metals.

The Pond's "Pore" billboard bagged the Silver Award while the Pond's "Curtain" billboard and the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "Volcanic Ash" print ad received the Bronze Award.

Established in 1986 by Media magazine, Spikes is the most respected and prestigious creative advertising awards show in the Asia Pacific region.

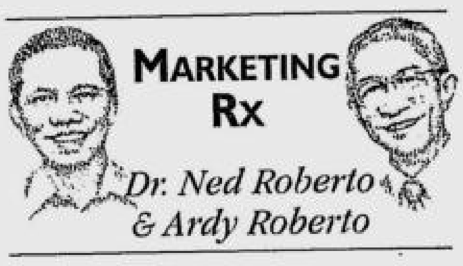
Media is Asia's leading media, advertising and marketing publication, covering news, analysis, features and industry opinion from around the region.

Clio Award

In the recent Clio Awards in Miami, Florida, O&M earned a Bronze Award for the Pond's "Pore" billboard.

The Clio is the world's most recognized international advertising award. Known for its world-class juries made up of more than 110 experts from 62 countries, the Clio focuses on creative work in the fields of advertising and design.

At The One Show, O&M garnered two Merit Awards for Pond's "Pore" as well as DHL Worldwide Express Philippines' "Direction."



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

The pricing decision tug-o-war

Q: OPERATIONS AND FINANCE DO THE pricing in our company. It's a pricing that assures the company with a 30-percent profit margin. The problem is they often can't agree with the marketing team when the marketing team believes that the pricing is not competitive. Usually, operations and finance won't compromise to lower the price. They argue that the lower price will adversely affect company's profit. What do you think?

A: The very first thing to understand is that the "profit margin" is not the same as the "company's profit." The profit margin is a rate and in this case 30 percent. Operations and finance arrived at that rate either from past experience with a certain sales volume or from benchmarking against industry practice.

Company profit is total profit that you can derive from multiplying the average profit margin by the unit sales volume.

When resolving this extremely common and frequently debated issue, it's useful to keep in mind the basic equation involved.

(% profit margin) x (unit sales volume) = total company profit

Big if

The big "IF"—will lower prices raise sales volume?

It's true that when you lower price, your profit margin will go down. But if the lower price triggers an increase in unit sales volume, then total company profit is not that "adversely affected" as your operations and finance assume. That's the big "IF." Will the lower price that your marketing team is referring to as the competitive price raise sales volume? If it will not, then operations and finance have a legitimate reason to disagree with the lower price.

The marketing team has the responsibility to demonstrate that the lower "competitive" price will indeed raise sales volume enough to maintain if not raise total profit. If being competitive in price simply means matching competitor's pricing, it's unlikely that sales volume will increase. Therefore, the lower price will indeed adversely affect margin as well as total profit.

Defining competition

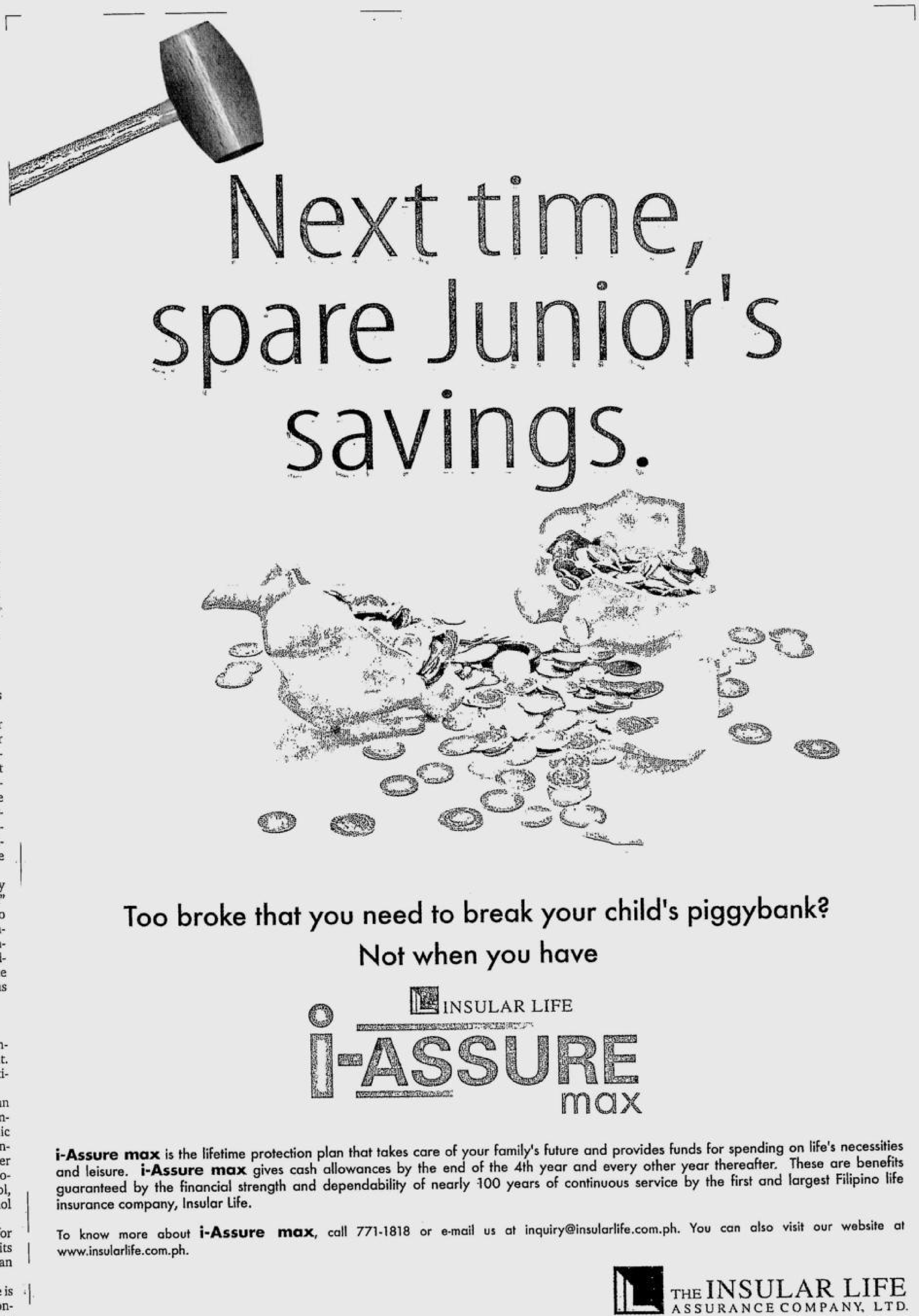
You may also want to find out which competition the marketing team is talking about. It should be the consumer-defined competition and not the marketer-defined.

We've seen this case in a previous column where we saw the marketer of Ponstan defining competition as other brands of mefenamic acid. On the other hand, consumers saw Ponstan as competing with just about any other analgesics such the paracetamol brand, Biogesic, and the pure ibuprofen brand, Medicol, and even Alaxan, a combination paracetamol and ibuprofen.

In the case of Ponstan versus Biogesic, for example, the fact that Biogesic has lowered its price does not necessarily mean that Ponstan should follow suit.

The operative segmentation at work here is the price segment of the premium where Ponstan belongs versus the economy segment where Biogesic belongs.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net. God bless!


Next time, spare Junior's savings.

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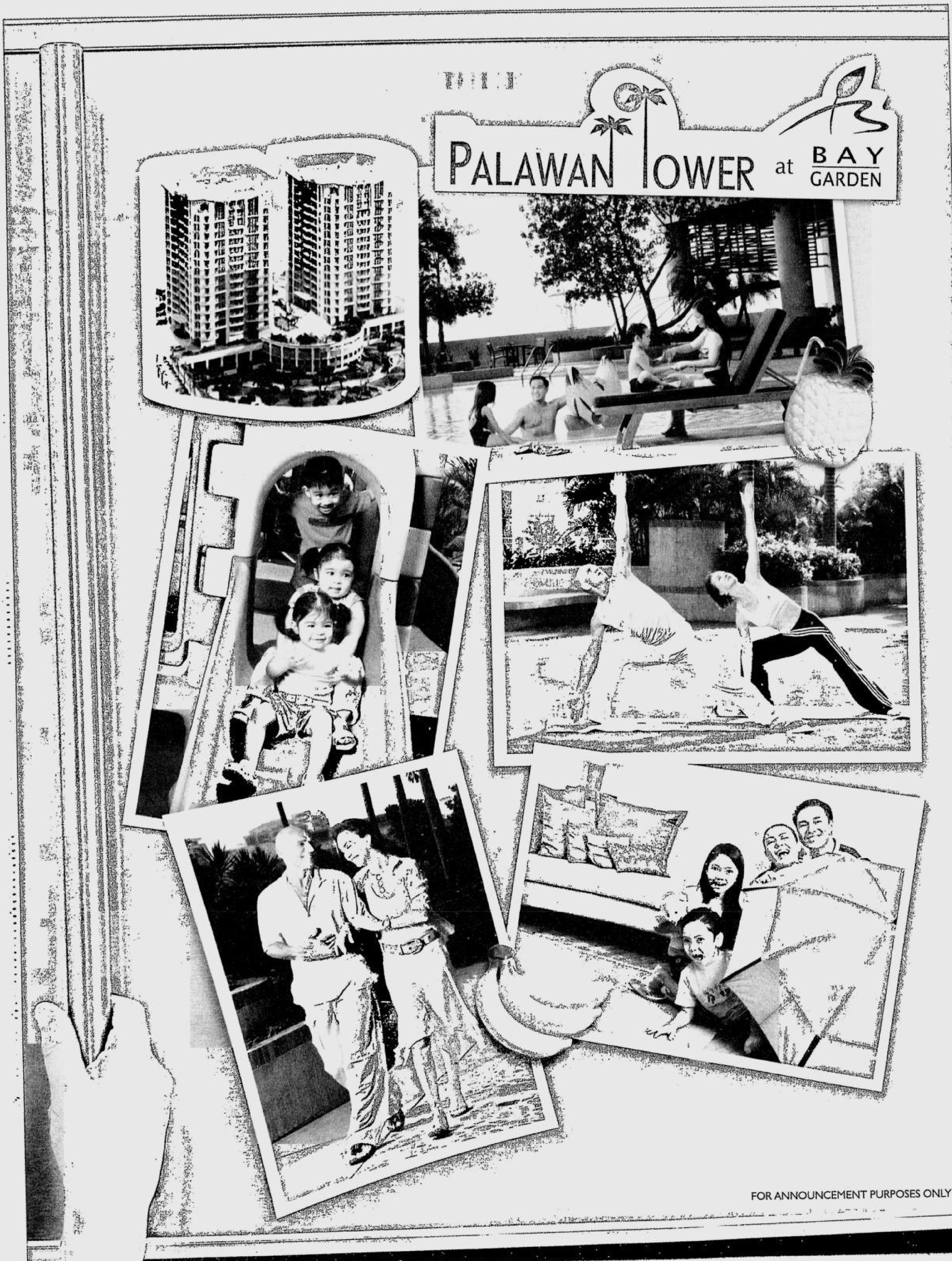
PALAWAN TOWER at BAY GARDEN



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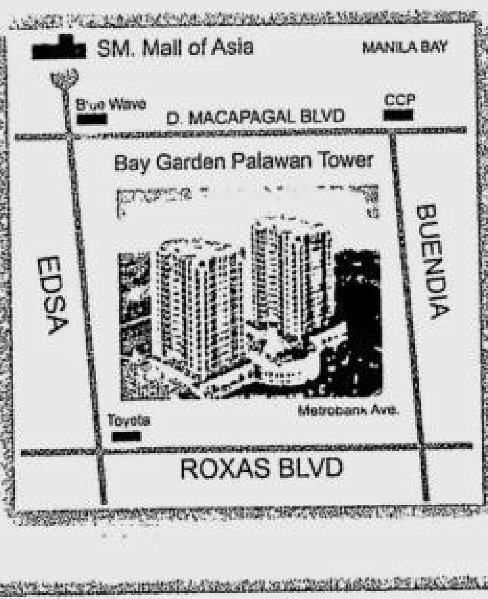
Introducing Palawan Tower - Bay Garden's latest attraction.

Ever wondered what it's like to be on vacation everyday? Step into the Bay Garden Community. Over here, life moves in a special pace. Behold the golden rays of Manila Bay's stunning sunsets as your family unwinds in resort-style amenities. Pools and playgrounds provide the backdrop for rest and relaxation. If you're looking for more upbeat fun, nearby hotspots like the Blue Wave Mall and Le Pavillon are waiting. Good times come naturally when you're near the Mall of Asia and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Palawan Tower is the 5th work of art in the exclusive Bay Garden community, which joins the four other residential masterpieces: Anchor, Boardwalk, Crystal, and Mactan Towers. Visit us now and enjoy the breeze while you marvel at the wide open space that sprawls out to welcome you. Come home to a grand vacation. Come home to Bay Garden.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ROADTALK

E-mail: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Aries Espinosa

You know you're a female driving in RP when ...

Do Pinays drive themselves mad in these here parts, or do the men do it for them? Here are 10 reality checkpoints for the (softer) hands behind the wheel

SCREEEEECH!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALIZZA BUTIONG

By Tessa R. Salazar

...You are an active participant in the daily Pinoy gridlock during rush hour while managing your own "rush hour" at home and at the office. Think working mom on the cell while jostling for every inch of available space in Edsa at 8 a.m. or 7 p.m., and your only view of the outside are the walls of and tires of four buses closing in on you.

...You're involved in an accident and you hear passing motorists remarking "*ay, babae kasi*", but never "*lalaki kasi*"; and when people remark with amazement "*uy babae*" when you're driving a 4x4 or anything that's unusually big. When you're driving with male passengers, you notice that they grip the door handles harder, or when you exceed 100 kph on the highways, they seem to lift their butts off their seats and make raspy, nervous coughing sounds. But when a male driver drives like hell, other male companions act like it was nothing.

...You either bring out the best or worst in your male counterparts. Male drivers will either give way to you or cut you off when they see a lady behind the wheel.

...You see a pink sign and you know it's not for you, especially when the sign says "Bawal Tumawid-Nakamamatay". When pink signs say things like that, it goes for all sexes.

...You either get cut by a female driver who's devilishly aggressive on the road or you get delayed by a really slow fe-

FEMALE/ B3-2

2007 Chevrolet Tahoe-full-size capacity with full-size comfort

GENERAL MOTORS PHILIPPINES recently introduced the 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe and is comprehensively redesigned and delivers a sharper, more precise driving feel, more power with improved fuel economy, increased interior refinement and improved quietness and enhanced safety and security.

The 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe is built on GM's new full-size SUV platform, which incorporates features such as a new, fully boxed frame, coil-over-shock front suspension, rack-and-pinion steering and an all new premium interior that bolsters the vehicle's comfort, quality and capability. Wider front and rear tracks enhance handling and lower the center of gravity for a more confident road feel.

Solid and quiet

Chevrolet Tahoe's engineers paid extensive attention to detail to ensure a quiet driving experience. It starts with a new, stiffer frame, which reduces vibrations transmitted to the passenger cabin.

Noise-reducing components and materials are used throughout the body structure. The engine also features a quiet-tuned alternator and an engine cover that dramatically reduces engine noise heard inside the vehicle. The Chevrolet Tahoe's improved aerodynamics, streamlined exterior mirrors, tighter body gap tolerances, makes it quieter as it slices through the air. Its quietness and smoothness are complemented by capabilities full-size SUV customers depend on, as it offers up to 6,500 pounds (2960 kg) of towing capability.

Improved efficiency

The new generation Vortec 5.3L V8 engine offers more power than comparable powertrains with 320 hp and 340 lb.-ft. of torque.

Fuel-saving Active Fuel Management technology also enables better fuel economy and delivers power when you need it. In situations where power is not needed, such as cruising down the highway on level roads, Active Fuel Management deactivates four of the eight cylinders with seamless precision, and is reactivated to provide 8-cylinder operation when needed.

Safety and security

The 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe features a 360-degree perimeter safety system of occupant protection and crash avoidance technologies.

Dual Front and Head-Curtain Side Airbags

Head-curtain side airbags for all rows help reduce the risk of injuries to all outboard occupants in certain side impacts. These cover all rows and are designed to stay inflated in the unlikely event of a roll-over to help reduce the risk of ejection.

StabiliTrak Electronic Control System

This improves vehicle stability, particularly during emergency maneuvers. The StabiliTrak automatically intervenes when it senses loss of lateral traction, under-steer or over-steer. The system applies break pressure and, if necessary, adjusts engine torque to help get the vehicle back on track.

Also included is the Proactive Roll Avoidance, which reduces the tendency to roll over in an emergency situation.

Safety cage enhancements

The high-strength galvanized-steel safety cage demonstrates an excellent balance between mass, noise and vibration, and crashworthiness and corrosion.

Ultrasonic Rear Park Assist

This uses sensors located in the rear bumper to detect certain stationary objects up to 2.5 meters behind the vehicle while traveling in reverse at low speed.

GM Oil Life System

The patented GM Oil-Life System helps take the guesswork out of when to change your oil, while also helping to protect the environment from unnecessary oil changes. The vehicle's system predicts the vehicle's oil life and indicates when a change in necessary.

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Raymond Tribdino

Criminalizing motorcyclists

JULY 18 IS THE WORLDWIDE "RIDE TO WORK" DAY. 2007 is the 15th celebration of this annual motorcycle and scooter commuting demonstration aimed to increase the number of riders on the road. This was according to "Ride to Work," a US-based non-profit pro-motorcycle and safety advocacy organization.

"Riding to work on this day shows the positive value of motorcycles and scooters for transportation. For many people, riding is an economical, efficient and socially responsible form of mobility that saves energy, helps the environment and provides a broad range of other public benefits," states Andy Goldfine, the event organizer.

Many motorcycle and scooter enthusiasts and rider organizations worldwide encourage their members to ride to work on this day. Co-members of my favorite Motorcycle Philippines (www.motorcyclephilippines.com) participated heavily in this event and their experiences form part of the site's forum.

I did my part and took my Suzuki motard to work, braving the recklessness of the ALPS and JAM provincial buses and the slight discomfort of the sudden drizzle along South Superhighway.

On my ride-to-work I also witnessed the blatant disrespect for the most basic of the safety laws by some fellow riders who were just alongside me. They too, I guess, were riding to work. And their office, I suppose, was Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba. On the back of their shirts shouting in big yellow letters was the word "Police". And on their heads were...no helmets.

And if that wasn't bad enough, I heard a rumor that afternoon that the Metro Manila Council (MMC) was hatching a plan that would require all motorcycle owners and riders to put the license plate numbers of their motorcycle on both sides of their helmets. This, according to my source at MMDA, was designed to curb criminality by those motorcycle-riders in Metro Manila.

Talk about irony. The lawbreakers don their helmets while Laguna's finest don't. Don't think I am stereotyping please. I personally know many, many of our good men and women from the police force who are exemplary motorcyclists. The sad thing is that those who violate the laws they were sworn to uphold give the whole force a bad name. That has to change.

Another thing that should be changed is MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando's rather iron-fisted mishandling of the whole issue of motorcyclists and the way he is treating the issue of motorcyclists and criminality.

Plastering the license plate letters on helmets is as useless as drinking hot coffee in the desert to cool off. Criminals will be criminals and what is there to stop them from plastering another person's license plate number on the helmet, in the same way as carnappers switch license plates from car to car to avoid detection?

Mr Fernando and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr, Marikina City Vice Mayor Marion Andres, Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio Sr, Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian, Las Piñas City Mayor Imelda Aguilar, and members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) got their lumps together to come out with this seemingly harmless solution.

Called the Dual Motorcycle and Helmet License Plate Numbers Policy, this states that the license plate numbers be put on both sides of each helmet using a water-proof adhesive in font large enough to be seen from a distance of 25 meters and should be placed 40 millimeters high on the helmet.

Wow! "Seen from 25 meters"? I asked my ophthalmologist friend (who is a rider too) an approximation of what this means in the real world, and it translates to letters up to 6 inches tall.

But the imposition was the very ugly tip of the iceberg. What it really meant is that every rider is a criminal. Now that is truly painful.

Moreover, Mr Fernando suggested that the Metro mayors enforce a common resolution that would criminalize the failure to put the license plate numbers on the helmets of motorcycle owners. So how does he take care of the helmet law? When his own MMDA people ride around the metropolis oftentimes without helmets. He has successfully convinced his minions to convert a simple sticker-on-a-helmet into a crime.

Mr Fernando was also quoted as saying that the violation of this policy "should carry with it stiffer penalties." He suggested "impounding the motorcycle and the appropriate fines and charges."

By saying so he treats each and every motorcyclist as a felon engaged in concealing his identity. The heck! I got a sun-shield coated visor only because I need to protect myself from glare and not to, in his fascist definition, "avoid positive identification by the public."

To add insult to injury motorcyclists are now bunched together with the scum of society, even our backriders are going to suffer with is Resolution No. 07-07.

This uniquely Filipino, rather "Fernando law" that was passed in February imposes the "no face shield" policy for backriders.

Okay now, tell me, Mr Fernando, how can our back rides protect ourselves from dust, smoke, road debris? I know this policy covers only Metro Manila, but plying main roads and secondary streets poses the same concerns a rider will have blasting down Marcos highway on route to Baguio.

This stranger-than-fiction policy requires the use of a helmet with its face shield tilted upward to reveal the face of the back rider for easy identification. It also defeats the very purpose of the face shield and provides for easy exposure to the elements too. Violators of the policy will be slapped with a P3,000 fine.

But what happens may I ask if the back ride wears a pair of goggles? Or even sunglasses? Does this not also interfere with identifying the back rider?

The motorcycling community will no doubt be up in arms against these policies. A heated forum is already ongoing at www.motorcyclephilippines.com. Log in and join the ride. With stickered helmet and face-shield-less back ride, of course.

(Your comments will be most appreciated. Please send them to: killswitch.roadtalk@ gmail.com).

Fourth leg marks Honda's successful fuel economy run

4TH LEG Civic Fuel Eco Winners presented by Honda Cars Philippines Inc's VP for marketing Arnel Doria (left) and AVP for market planning Gabby Peren (right).

HONDA CIVIC OWNERS ACHIEVED remarkable results during the concluding leg of the Totally Amazing Fuel i-VTEC Fuel Eco Run, conducted by Honda Cars Philippines Inc (HCPI) and Total Philippines Corp.

Totally Amazing i-VTEC Fuel Eco is a fuel efficiency fun competition, which aims to promote fuel saving consciousness among regular motorists. This campaign proves that simple efficient driving habits significantly matter in generating better fuel mileage.

Participating Civic owners put to test their i-VTEC engine during the entire run. After securing the necessary registration materials, participants proceeded to Total gas station for the initial fill of Total Premium Unleaded gasoline up to full tank fuel level. Fuel lid, trunk, and air-conditioning dials were sealed by Honda officials to set uniform driving conditions among participants. In order to simulate day-to-day driving, participants are required to turn on the air-conditioning unit and follow all traffic rules and regulations. Following a fixed route, competition ended in another Total gasoline station for final fill up. The team with the least amount of fuel consumed, with reference to distance traveled, was declared winner. The fuel tanks were once again filled up at the end point. Representatives from Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) and Department of Energy (DOE) observed entire proceedings.

The Totally Amazing Fuel Eco Run debuted Dec. 16, 2006. The Christmas rush did not stop them from traversing heavily congested roads of Ortigas Avenue, Edsa, Katipunan, Quezon Avenue, Espana, Quiapo, and Roxas Boulevard, as they headed to the end-point in Kamagong. For the customer category, Frederico Villena registered 8.41 km/li. Meanwhile, in the media category, Ronald delos Reyes of "AutoReview" posted 8.14 km/li.

On Jan. 27, a new batch of Civic owners was challenged with another heavily congested event route. Jonathan de Leon posted an amazing 16.52 km/liter, topping the customer category. Meanwhile, Ferdie Baja of DZXL and Dino Directo of Manila Standard Today posted 14.91 km/liter. The 1.8 Civic M/T Official Car driven by AAP posted 14.08 km/liter.

The last two legs were conducted to test the Civic under highway driving conditions. Starting from Balintawak, participants drove along the NLEX as they headed to Angeles city. Jay Ambrosio and Benjamin Gonzales won under M/T customer category, registering 24.49 kms/li and 29.64 kms/li respectively. As for the A/T customer category, Noelito Feliciano and Roberto Abanto beat the other participants, registering 28.67 kms/li and 26.74 kms/li, respectively. For the media category, Aries Espinosa of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Claudine Najera of Heart Radio registered 24.49 kms/li, topping the 1.8 Civic A/T during the third leg. Meanwhile, Mike Potenciano and Deepah Mansukhani of "Speed TV" registered 29.64 kms/li, topped the fourth leg's 1.8 Civic A/T media category.

During the fourth leg, the Civic Hybrid driven DOE officials headed by Senior Science Research Specialist Gerardo Palabrica registered an amazing 33.87 kms/li.

Equipped with an i-VTEC engine system, the Civic achieves enhanced fuel economy. This system switches the valve timing for maximum efficiency during takeoff and acceleration to achieve powerful performance and excellent torque output, and then delays intake valve closure timing. Aside from intelligent valve control, the 1.8 i-VTEC engine offers high-efficiency combustion and compact, lightweight design to generate amazing fuel economy.

Motolite, the official battery of Totally Amazing i-VTEC eco run, BPI/MS Insurance, Concept One Wheels, and AVT and Intelligent Car Multimedia joined Honda in promoting the significance of fuel conservation. Media partners ABS-CBN, Studio 23, RX 93.1, NU 107, Jam 88.3, 99.5 RT and RMN Networks also made this four-leg series possible.

OVERSIZED TIRES

Form or function? It can be both!

A LOT OF MOTORISTS AND CAR MANUFACTURERS are going for plus 1, 2, 3 and even 4 for their tires. This means their rim sizes are actually increasing up to four inches from the original specs of the car. This makes the car handle better during high-speed cornering and creates a longer total rolling circumference, making the car run smoother and more economical.

But going big doesn't automatically mean the ride gets better. The biggest problem associated with big rims or "bling" magwheels using very low profile tires is when they're fitted improperly by fly-by-night tire shops. The end result here would result to a harsher ride and even damaged suspension in the long term.

The '80s and '90s old-school big rims with 1 and 2-inch upgrades are a far cry in terms of comfort and handling compared to today's multimillion peso vehicles with stock 17, 18, 19 and even 20-inch rims that ride so smooth and quiet that you'll have to ride them to believe them. The secret to "bling" rims and a sweet ride seems to have been decoded.

One of those wheel specialists who have "cracked the code" is Wheel Gallery, the country's exclusive dealer and importer of the popular Concept One Rims. Located in Santolan corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City, Wheel Gallery does its own measurements and fittings scientifically to assure the safety and comfort.

As an example, a late-model V6 Montero shod with 22-inch Concept One rims with the Nitto brand was test driven on Ortigas Avenue. The vehicle did glide over the humps and tackled the big potholes without a hiccup. As another example, an old 85 Benz with improperly fitted 17-inchers and rode like a tank was re-fitted with Wheel Gallery tires. The difference was immediately felt. The first thing one notices is the improved grip on the road and high-speed stability.

Now, imagine what 20 to 24-inch sets of Wheel Gallery mags can do with upscale SUVs such as the Expedition, Explorer, Pajero, Prado, Fortuner, or Rav4.

Wheel Gallery also offers 18 and 19-inchers for sport compact tuners for the Civic, Corolla, Jazz, Focus, Sentra, Mazda 3,6, Impreza, Swift, Vios, Yaris, and Lancer Evo who dare to go for the JDM (Japan-destined market) look, and 20-inchers for the big sedan market (Camry, Accord, Audi, BMW, Chrysler, Porsche, Volvo, Galant, Eclipse, Cefiro, Teana, 350z and Mercedes Benz). They'll definitely look like they just rolled out of a car show.

And who says form and function can't mix? The best thing you'll notice with Wheel Gallery tires fitted in your car is the way people stop and stare at your ride, and you know deep down inside that it's not just the "bling" that makes them do a double take on your wheels. *(Giby Yalung, Road Talk contributor)*

Proud Motul dealer turns 1

As a full service automotive repair shop, Stage 1 is one of the most aggressive and emerging motor works shop in Metro Manila. Stage 1 is also one of the pioneer dealers of Motul Oil and Lubricants. Located along Bayani Street corner G. Araneta Avenue, Stage 1 is celebrating its first anniversary June 30. "We are happy that their company has used Motul and we support and congratulate Stage 1 on their anniversary," says Adrian Baltazar, marketing executive of Motul. Stage 1 carries Motul's full line of oil and lubricants. "One of their top sellers is the H-TEC 100 Fully Synthetic Oil," adds Baltazar. H-TEC 100 is oil with excellent anti-oxidation properties, preventing premature thickening and ageing due to thermal stress. Its high performance anti-wear additive increases engine life duration and decreases wear by reducing engine internal friction resulting in smooth and light acceleration. H-TEC's anti-deposit and anti-black sludge power help maintains a clean engine, and also has properties for anti-corrosion, anti-foam properties that protect both the oil and engine from unwanted elements the car accumulates from usage. H-TEC 100 is suitable for standard leaded or unleaded gasoline, LPG powered cars, and for city and/or highway driving conditions. Motul H-TEC 100 10W40 retails for P430 a liter. "We positioned this product in such range to introduce the performance of a true synthetic oil to all motorists, and for average consumers to appreciate our products," relates Carlos Gono of Autoplus Sportzentrium, the exclusive distributor of Motul oil and lubricants in the Philippines. Autoplus Sportzentrium is offering a promotional package for H-Tech Synthetic Oil for only P2,300, which includes four liters of H-TEC, oil filter, free labor and check up. For inquiries, visit Motul at 233 Edsa (southbound), Mandaluyong City or call 726-3066, 726-0399, e-mail info@auto-plus.com.

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Unleash your engine's potential with the Unichip piggyback fuel and timing computer. All cars that come out of the factory are stock and have been de-tuned to meet emission standards. With the Unichip piggyback computer system, one can alter the stock fuel and timing maps to unleash more power and consequently gain better fuel economy. Factual data reveals a typical power gain of 10 to 15 hp on 1.6L engines just by altering fuel and timing. Other features include boost control, nitrous activation, additional injector control and more. The Unichip piggyback computer system is universal and will work with any Japanese, European and American vehicles. Plug and play harnesses are available for the Toyota Fortuner, Hilux and Innova as well as the Mitsubishi Strada and Nissan Patrol. All it takes to unleash the beast is a 10-minute installation without cutting or splicing the wire harness. For details on how feel the power and adrenaline rush, call SpeedLab at 376-4648/51 or log on to www.speedlab.com.ph.

You know you're a female driving . . .

From page B3-1

male driver.

...You argue with an MMDA traffic enforcer, and you sometimes win. This writer once actually argued with a traffic enforcer over a misplaced traffic sign she was pulled over for violating. She was let go that time. The next week, the traffic sign was properly placed where it should be.

...You notice too many scantily clad women on huge billboards but too few ads of half naked hunks.

...You see taxi drivers replacing flat tires for distressed female drivers or encounter female motorists who complain about overheating and you find out there's no water in their car's radiator or oil in the engine; or female drivers who back up while talking and doing their makeup without looking back.

...Male drivers honk, truck drivers wink, and *takatak* boys whoop it up when you are in a convertible with the top down. And when bus passengers spit from their window just when you're driving beside them...

...You are constantly hounded by a feeling that your next door mechanic is out to grab the opportunity to make a fast buck out of your seeming ignorance of moving parts. But because you're in the Philippines, you're expertise in haggling gives you the winner's end of the deal.

Ask GIBS

Mechanic-at-large Giby Yalung answers your most pressing automotive problems

Dear Gibs,

I bought a 2004 CR-V with around 45,000kms. It's all-original, but the paint is not that shiny (not faded, though) since the previous owner didn't have a covered garage. I tried to wax the car many times and even brought it to my favorite carwash, but the paint has lost its luster. Can I still bring the shine back without a costly repaint?

Don of Alabang

Dear Don,

Your paint has oxidized its top coat layer due to prolonged exposure to heat, dust, rain and UV exposure. This has created microscopic cracks on the surface that no amount of waxing can remedy. Your best move is to bring your car to a professional car detailing shop for some power buffering and application of light abrasive chemical solution to remove the oxidized faded surface. This will bring out a new paint surface and create a new shine. That's like "dermabrasion", or skin peeling to bring out that baby smooth skin (or should I say paint) on your car.

Dear Gibs,

I have a 2003 Isuzu Crosswind XTO turbo automatic, but I wish to make it run faster. Can I add an intercooler to get more power?

Arnel of Quezon City

Dear Arnel,

Yes you can add an intercooler in your XTO. The only problem is the position and space and the type of intercooler you may use that will fit your car perfectly. By adding an intercooler, for every 10 degrees F you decrease in your boosted turbocharged air pressure, that's equivalent to a 1-percent increase of power in your engine. If your intercooler can bring the air temp down by 200 degrees, that's equivalent to a 20-percent increase in power since the air is more dense and cooler as it adds more oxygen into the engine. It's the same as when you drive early mornings or late at night, you'll feel the engine has more torque. With an intercooler, you get the increase in power all day and all night long.

Gibs

For any questions and comments, send an e-mail to askgibs.roadtalk@yahoo.com.

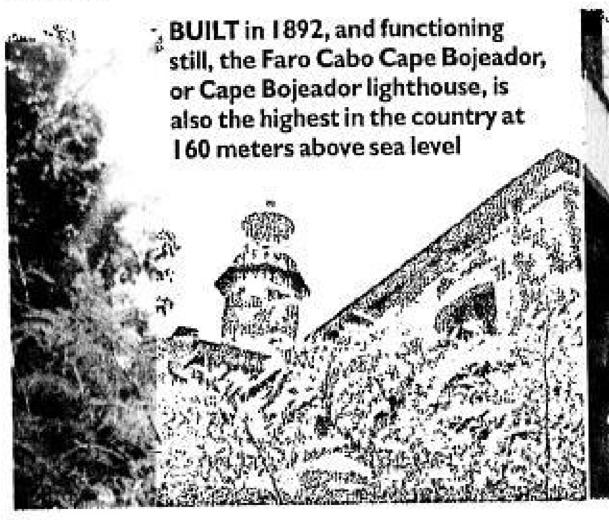
LAST HURRAH FOR SUMMER '07

Up north, where wind and mills meet

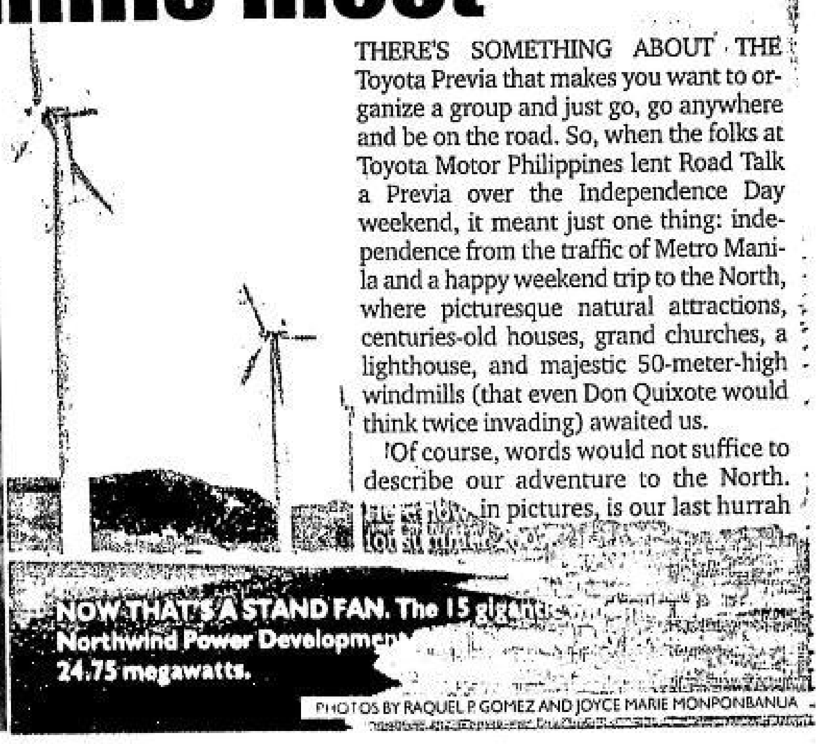
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE Toyota Previa that makes you want to organize a group and just go, go anywhere and be on the road. So, when the folks at Toyota Motor Philippines lent Road Talk a Previa over the Independence Day weekend, it meant just one thing: independence from the traffic of Metro Manila and a happy weekend trip to the North, where picturesque natural attractions, centuries-old houses, grand churches, a lighthouse, and majestic 50-meter-high windmills (that even Don Quixote would think twice invading) awaited us.

Of course, words would not suffice to describe our adventure to the North. [illegible] in pictures, is our last hurrah [illegible]

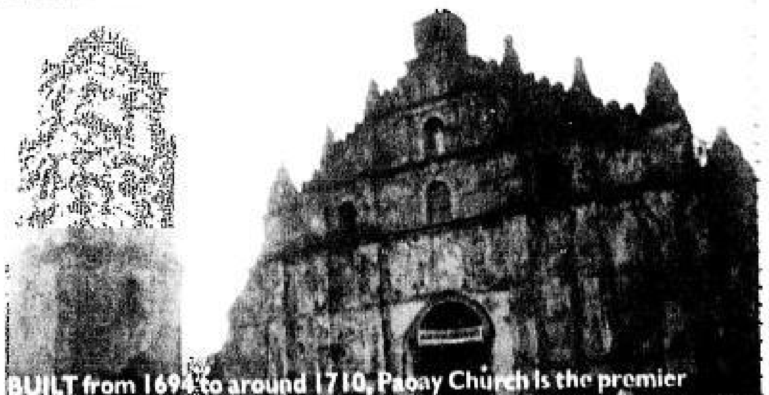
THE NEW PREVIA gives the driver almost total control of all the vehicle's functions, including the automatic sliding doors and rear hatch. Coupled with middle row captain's seats, passengers get the royal treatment fit for 'GIs', or 'galanteng Ilokanos'.


BUILT in 1892, and functioning still, the Faro Cabo Cape Bojeador, or Cape Bojeador lighthouse, is also the highest in the country at 160 meters above sea level

AH, VIGAN. You haven't been to Ilocos if you haven't 'time warped' here


NOW THAT'S A STAND FAN. The 15 gigant[illegible] Northwind Power Developmen[illegible] 24.75 megawatts.

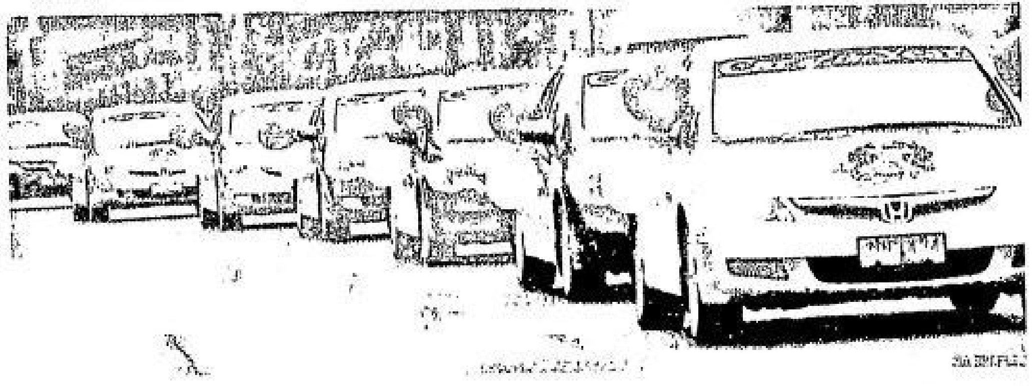
PHOTOS BY RAQUEL P GOMEZ AND JOYCE MARIE MONPONBANUA


BUILT from 1694 to around 1710, Paoay Church is the premier example of Philippine Earthquake Baroque, an architectural solution to the area's challenging natural setting. Batac Museum, where the late former President Ferdinand Marcos' remains are displayed, is 15 minutes away.

AT THE VERY NORTH. The group, past Pagudpud and at the Patapat Viaduct overlooking Pasaleng Bay. The viaduct was constructed to solve the landslide problem of the area.

Civic Metrocruise

THE HONDA CIVIC WAS DECLARED THE AUTOMOBILE OF THE YEAR DURING THE 3RD AUTO Focus People's Choice Awards (AFPC) and the Car of the Year by Car Awards Group Inc (Cagi). Recently, 12 Honda Civics paraded along Edsa in celebration of these two prestigious, back-to-back awards. The Civic motorcade kicked off in Honda Cars Kalookan, passed by Honda Cars Quezon City and ended up in Honda Cars Makati. Auto Focus People's Choice Awards empowers the general public to vote for their favorite automobile models. After tallying votes generated from the Internet, on-site polling centers in prime shopping centers and from on-site voting stations during the Philippine Motor Show held at the World Trade Center, the Honda Civic emerged as the people's Automobile of the Year. The Car Awards Group Inc, a non-stock, non-profit organization composed of writers from various motoring, lifestyle and business publications, holds annual testfests and subjects competing vehicles in multiple categories in determining the winners. The Civic's innovative interior and exterior features, promising fuel economy, superior engine performance, and value for money are the winning features cited by Cagi members.



Metrobank's MetroCar Great Rates Sale

GET A CAR NOW! CATCH THE LAUNCH OF METROBANK'S METROCAR GREAT RATES SALE AT the North Court of the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell from June 29 to July 1 and see how Metrobank has made owning a car easier. The MetroCar Great Rates Sale offers special rates to car buyers who will avail of Metrobank's MetroCar auto loan package in the bank's Metro Manila branches. Metrobank depositors who avail of the promo will be entitled to an additional rate reduction. Choose from the latest car models from the MetroCar Great Rates Sale participating dealers Toyota Manila Bay Corp, Ford Global City, Honda Cars Pasig, Hyundai Quezon Avenue, Isuzu Inteco Edsa, Kia Motors Greenhills, Mitsubishi Citimotors Inc, and Nissan UN Avenue Manila. Borrowers will also enjoy the other benefits of a MetroCar auto loan such as loan values of up to 80 percent of your new car's net selling price, affordable installment plan of up to 60 months, fast processing of loan application, and worry-free loan repayment through issuance of postdated checks or automatic debit arrangements. The MetroCar Great Rates Sale will run from June 29 to Sept. 30 only. For more information, visit your nearest Metrobank Branch within Metro Manila, or call 898-8540, 898-8577, 898-8502, 898-8943, and 898-8537.

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Rainy day tips from Honda

IT'S THE RAINY SEASON ONCE again! Before driving off into wet roads, make sure your car is in proper condition and you're driving safely on the road. Honda Cars Philippines Inc gives motorists tips on rainy day car maintenance and motoring safety.

Most motorists do not like washing their cars when it is raining. But make sure your windshield, windows and headlights and taillights are free of dirt and mud. Wipers must always be in good condition and proper function. Wipers need replacing when there are water streaks or water lines. Also, keep the windshield water tank filled with soapy water. These will ensure better visibility on the road.

Inside the car, regularly check the carpeting for water seepage. This may cause premature rusting, mildew and foul odor as well as malfunctioning of the car's electrical components, such as ECU, horn, radio speaker, etc. Also avoid venting fresh air of A/C to prevent water infiltration.

Once you're on the road, turn your headlights on whenever there is a need to use the wipers, especially on heavy rainfall. This will increase your visibility to oncoming and tailing motorists.

On this type of weather, reduce the normal driving speed you normally maintain on good weather days. Wet roads are slippery and may cause your car to skid. Anticipate water splashes from your car and other vehicles as they block visibility. When your car gets splashed, never make sudden stops. This is dangerous to the motorists behind you. Instead, reduce your speed and maintain your direction.

When the brake pads are wet, braking capacity is reduced. To dry up the brakes, set gear in first, step on the brakes lightly. Press the accelerator to move forward. The brakes will dry up easily. Also check if the sliding is reduced.

When the rain gets really heavy and is flooding up the roads, be extra cautious on the road. Beware of open manholes and potholes. Tires, suspension and underchassis may be damaged.

Floodwater can cause thermal stress on your exhaust manifold and reduce its life. Avoid driving through flooded areas higher than your exhaust muffler. Your car may stall. But drive through floods higher than your engine-water will reach your air cleaner. This may result to permanent and costly damage to your car.

In the most extreme situation when the cabin area has been flooded, avoid running your engine. Get in touch with your dealer for assistance. Have a safe and sound rainy season!

Suzuki conquers archipelago on 2 wheels for 4th time

FOR THE FOURTH TIME, SUZUKI PHILIPPINES Inc (SPH) once again conquered the archipelago on two wheels, after the culmination of this year's Suzuki Nationwide Endurance Run. An all-night victory party to cap the 43-day, 7,000-km tour was held at the Damosa Gateway, Davao City. More than 200 riders from various Suzuki riding clubs of Mindanao, including Tagum Rider's Club, Batang Suzuki Rider's Club (Davao), Smagun (Suzuki Smash and Shogun owners of Gensan) and SRC (Socsargen Raider's Club) joined SPH's longest victory party motorcade to date. The 26-man contingent who traveled the archipelago, headed by tour team leader Noel Villapando and SPH's Safety Riding Coach Mel Aquino were also given due recognition for their own endurance and persistence. Exciting games including the "slow-race" competition on two stock Raider Js, electrifying dance numbers from the Suzuki dancers and various Suzuki memorabilia were likewise prepared for the participants.

"This is another year of proving to the Filipinos how durable a brand Suzuki is. Through this effort, I am confident that the people will recognize that Suzuki is truly a highly dependable Japanese brand." says Kiyoshi Kawahara, president, SPH. "I believe that through this effort, the motorcycle riding culture will further be promoted and more and more people will recognize that motorcycling has truly evolved from being the stereotyped messenger's commute to a more cost-efficient and a faster mode of transportation," Kawahara added.

The Suzuki Nationwide Endurance Run is an annual two-wheel tour forwarding motorcycling as an alternative lifestyle.

Swift sweeps back-to-back awards

SUZUKI'S STYLISH SUBCOMPACT hatchback Swift recently bagged back-to-back recognition after it was voted 2007 Autofocus People's Choice Awards' Subcompact Car of the Year and 2007 C! Magazine's Subcompact Hatchback of the Year.

"We are very happy with the awards that the Swift had been accorded. Having been recognized by two of the most credible and respectable media institutions further underscores Swift's quality and market appeal. We are very much honored." says Kiyoshi Kawahara, president, Suzuki Philippines Inc.

Launched two years ago, the Swift is still one of the hottest-looking hatchbacks in the market today. Powered by a 1.5-L DOHC 16-valve VVT engine, 4 speed A/T, 1143Nm @400rpm torque and 9.5 compression ratio, the Swift does live up to its motorsport inspired origin.

Shown are Motoring Today's Gerry Aquino , Manila Bulletin's Pinky Colmenares, Kiyoshi Kawahara, president, SPH and Motoring Today's Butch Gamboa during the 2007 Autofocus People's Choice Awards night.

Speed, performance, and accuracy

WHEN YOU TALK OF SPEED, performance, and accuracy, none so best personifies these attributes than a race car driver.

One such person whose life is centered on these attributes is no less than JP Tuason. Coming from an impressive and winning family line of motorsports enthusiasts, JP is able to fuse two demanding worlds, the race track and being a businessman, with much aplomb.

"Racing has been a passion for me and that passion gives me the determination to win on and off the race track. Even in business, as an entrepreneur, I will not accept failure," declares JP.

With his natural driving skill sets and abilities, he has been able to compete in races all over the world.

So far, in his illustrious racing career, the worst accident he ever got involved in a race was in 2005 in a Formula 3 (F3) race. "A car hit me at 190 kph and I went into the tire wall that caused major damage to the car. Fortunately, I didn't get hurt and I was able to compete again that day and finished 3rd place," explains JP.

It's a good thing that JP emphasizes safety among other things on the race track. "Safety is foremost to me when I'm on the track because there will always be another race to join. Speed, performance, and accuracy are all very important factors in winning races. Any slight miscalculation or equipment failure can lead to an accident or worse, even get a race car driver killed. We make sure that all our equipment is prepared properly to perform at its best during the races, which includes our electronic devices."

And for electronic devices, JP pointed to his team's Acer Ferrari laptop computer, which he feels is a great complement to the JP Tuason racing team. "It is light, easy to use, and very fast. We use it at the races to gather data for the team, which includes lap times, speed, and RPMs. These are then analyzed and used to tune our cars and driving. It is a great asset to the team and gave us the edge we need to challenge for the championship this year," adds a beaming JP.

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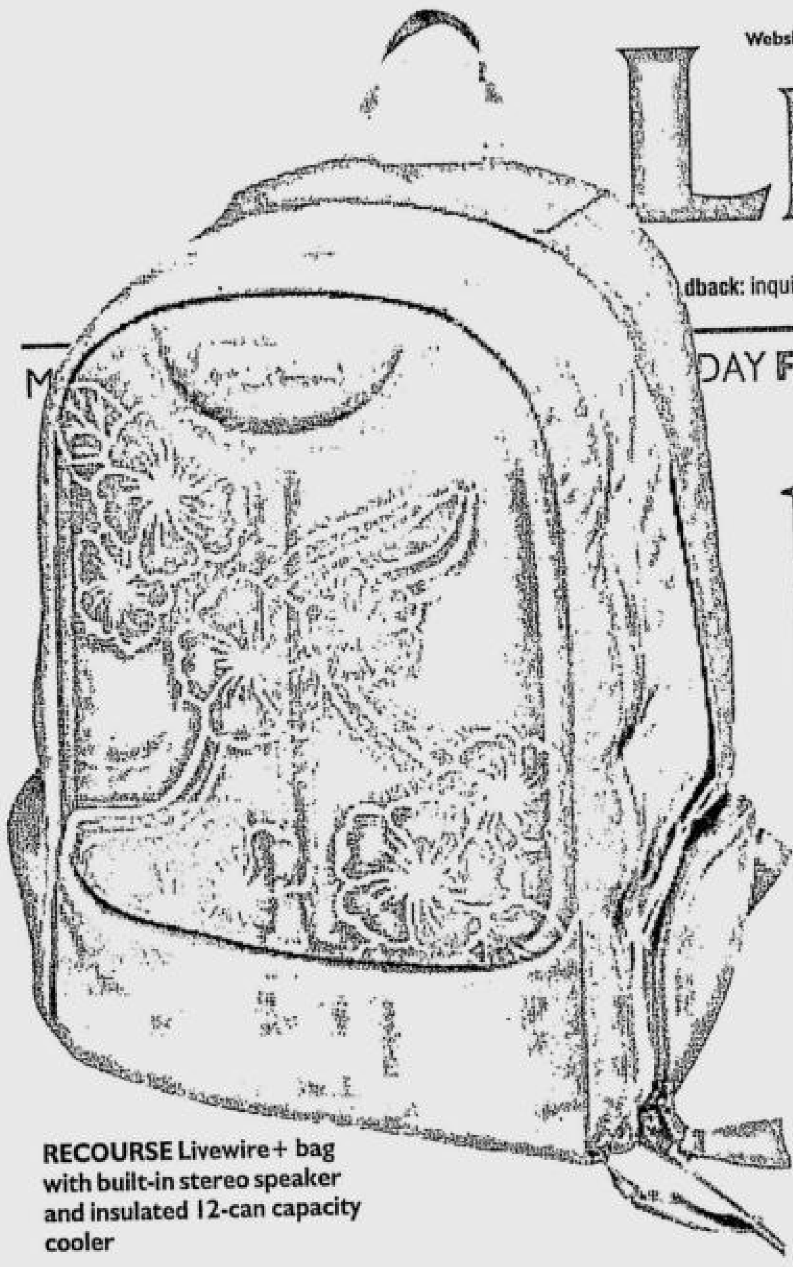


RECOURSE Livewire+ bag with built-in stereo speaker and insulated 12-can capacity cooler

The bag that roared

JanSport co-founder Skip Yowell was in town to promote his book on the bag legend's rise to power

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE YEAR IS 1967. IN Seattle, Washington, a troika of "long-haired hippies who spent too much time above the tree line," armed only with a shared passion for adventure, Bob Dylan and beer—and no desire "to get a real job after college"—embarks on a life expedition, without virtual road maps, in true free-spirit fashion.

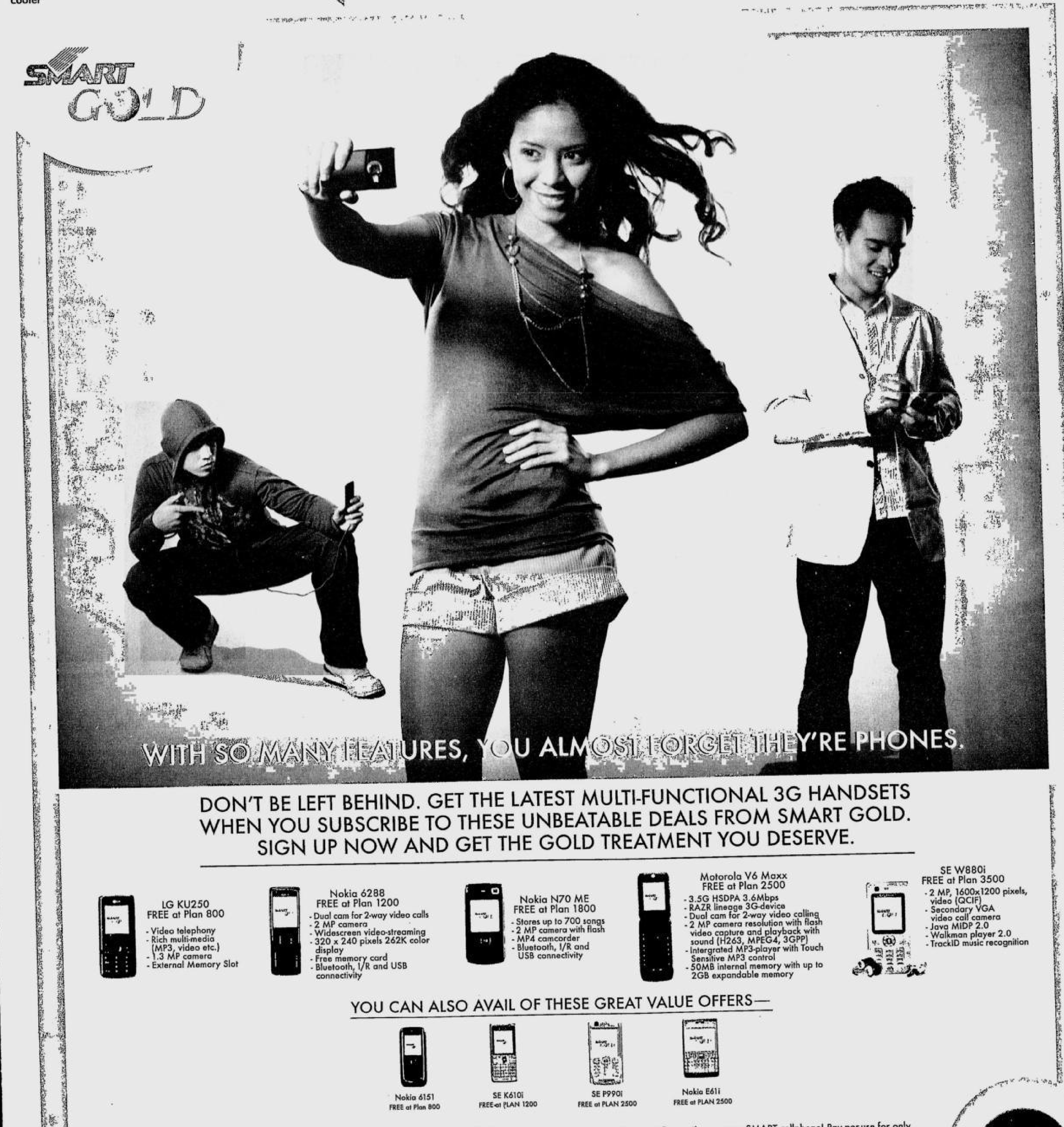
One of the trio, Murray Pletz, has just created the first adjustable aluminum frame for backpacking, inspired by his experience as an avid outdoorsman. At a time when all backpack frames are made of rigid wood, his design is revolutionary. It wins him a prize in a college tilt.

In a romantic twist, Pletz asks his college sweetheart, Jan Peterson, to marry him, with the promise to name after her the company he wants to set up. (That Peterson is a good sewer and quite adept at making patterns, of course, is also a plus.) She says yes.

Pletz then calls in his Kansas-born cousin, Skip Yowell, who went to

THE BAG/ C4

THE CLASSIC Superbreak book bag now comes in 38 prints and patterns.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See flyers for details. Promo runs from June 9 to 30, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2600. Series of 2007.

MOI, Ditas Taleon, guest couturier from *Manille* Louie Claparols and international supermodel Ria Bolivar

JAKI Peñalosa's bride wears a gown with halter bustier top and bell shirt in striped Cambodian silk.

ANGELETTE Borja-Ragus's bride dons a gown embellished with embroidery, appliqués and beadwork.

BOLIVAR and Bo Parcon

Iloilo bridal wear comes of age

ERIC de los Santos

CLAIRE Jarantilla-Gabayeron's gown features lace inserts and minimal beadwork.

DON PROTASIO'S streamlined silk gown with minimal embroidery and silver collar

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

IT WAS JUNE AGAIN, *PALANGGAS*, AND it was time for me to jet off to bustling Iloilo to be the special guest in the 6th Wedding Ritual, superbly organized by Robinsons Place mall's brilliant **Ditas L. Taleon.**

The show opened with a fashion extravaganza that showcased 10 fashion points of view, from nine top local designers and special guest designer, Cosmo *Manille*-based Ilonggo couturier **Louie Clàparols.** They interpreted "Modernity," *palanggas*.

Bo Parcon featured a flowing wedding gown with yards and yards of silk and minimal beadwork.

Eric de los Santos' bride was a golden goddess who swept down from Mount Olympus wearing his superb drapery.

Don Protasio created a streamlined silk gown.

Jasmine Castelo's modern bride was stunning in a classic bustier and bouffant princess-cut gown.

Carlo Simoy's bride definitely made a sweeping statement with the longest train I had seen yet, *palanggas*.

Claire Jarantilla-Gabayeron featured an off-white wedding number with figure-hugging bodice and umbrella shirt.

Angelette Borja-Ragus' princess-cut gown, was matched with electric-pleated shrug.

Jaki Peñalosa's two-piece creation, in striped cream Cambodian silk, was gorgeous.

And the finale featured Claparols' eye-catching column gowns emphasizing the female figure. He effortlessly juxtaposed jersey with lace and glittering colored rhinestones.

Ilongga supermodel **Ria Bolivar** led the models in walking down the ramp in the designers' bridal creations.

Needless to say, Ilonggo talent was at its awesome, thanks to Iloilo's Robinsons Place, *palanggas*.

Lulu at Greenbelt 5

Studying at one of Europe's top art and design schools has definitely helped world-class knitwear designer **Lulu Tan-Gan** sharpen "her dress sense" and stay in touch with international fashion trends, dahlings.

With its posh, free-spirited luxe resort wear, L Ltd. is the ultimate wardrobe. The look is elegant and polished, but still true to the designer's fun personal style.

The unique cuts are knitted in a broad range of threads—cool cotton for the day and rayon for sleek dressy evenings.

The "L" formula can now be seen at the soon-to-be hottest new spot—Greenbelt 5, no less, *palanggas*.

The exhibit showcased not only Lulu Tan-Gan's absolute, must-haves but also exceptional pieces of other talented local designers such as **Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Randy Ortiz, Jojie Lloren, Dennis Lustico** and **Michi Calica.** The shop will also feature accessory designs by **Amina Aranaz, Arnel Papa** and **Ana Rocha.**

Ana Rocha isn't just a jewelry designer, *palanggas*, but is, in fact, involved in various facets of design. While toying with silver, gold and precious stones, she's also working on redesigning the Pavilion, creating model units for Celadon, and making restaurants Guava and Tavern look more style-savvy, dahlings.

The multifaceted designer applies her trademark architectural method and comes up with instant modern classics.

Ana is also a restaurateur. She owns the newly opened Tatami in the Serendra complex at The Fort, and the popular joint Haiku in Greenbelt 3. After all, a gal can never have enough blings-blings, *n'cest pas*? (as in, *'di bala*?)

Many of our town's highly acclaimed designers are going to reside in Greenbelt 5 by the last quarter of 2007, where you'll find a smorgasbord of true Filipino ingenuity and talent, *palanggas*.

Ex-girlfriends

During a huge clan gathering at the Araneta "White House" in Cubao, things begun to perk up after most of the guests were gone. Somebody suggested that a photo be taken of Sen. **Mar Roxas** together with his present love, brilliant and articulate TV personality **Korina Sanchez**, and his ex-girlfriends **Doris Magsaysay Ho** and **Maricris Florendo Brias.** All of them gamely posed for the camera, *palanggas*.

Moi then asked Korina: "What's your secret? You and Mar have lasted this long?"

She told me: "Ahh, but my lips are sealed on this one."

At a private party in a posh village a couple of sleeps ago, five gorgeous gals who were on a night-out, had breezed in *après* dinner at Pepato.

One of them was gorgeous **Pinky Webb**, whom *moi* hadn't seen in eons, and who also was once upon a time linked to **Mar Roxas.** After a while, debonair, southern gent **Edu Manzano** walked in, said his hellos to everyone, and gave Pinky what looked to me as a special kind of big hug.

Once the gals left for another happening, *moi* asked Edu: "Did you ever have a romantic affair with Pinky?" "Yes, but we broke up three months ago and this is the first time I've seen her since," he answered.

Another strange coincidence was, that same night, Mar Roxas was celebrating his birthday party at his Cubao residence. *Moi* told Pinky about it earlier, and she immediately asked me: "Was Korina there?" "Natch!" I answered.

Polo tribute to Enzo

For the recent Enrique Zobel Memorial Polo Cup, the chic set was there in full force at the Manila Polo Club, dahlings.

Van Heusen, the popular American male fashion brand, took center stage as our town's hotshot namedroppables watched the hottest Polo players in the field led by Mr. High-Goaler himself, **Iñigo Zobel,** as well as international players **Mark Field, Mark Austin** and **Paulito,** all wearing Van Heusen polo uniforms of whites and blues.

At the grandstand, guests nibbled on excellent lamb barbecue from Monterey. They also queued to grab different styles of the latest Ray-Ban sunglasses and Van Heusen shirts.

Peter Noszek, EVP of Nestlé, and **Louis de Fouchier**, editorial director of World Report, picked out the classiest from the brand's latest collection and modeled them on the field.

United States defense attaché, Col. **Terry Cook**, was also dressed in a Van Heusen shirt.

After all, Van Heusen salutes men whose vision and drive built empires and change lives.

The polo event paid tribute to a great man of wisdom, the late tycoon **Enrique Zobel**, who passed away in 2004, *palanggas*.

CARLO Simoy's gown has the longest train in the show.

PARCON's A-line gown with layers of leaf patterns cascading on both shoulders

JASMINE Castelo's bouffant princess-cut gown with embroidery and headwork

FORMER Philippine Ambassador to Spain and Polo Club first president Isabel Caro Wilson; business tycoon Bob Mirani, Van Heusen chair; and adorable Dee Zobel, wife of the late Enrique Zobel

WORKING socialite Devi Leaño and Anton San Diego

PEPPER Teehankee and Rod Nepomuceno

DYNES Dignadice of Van Heusen, Hannah Punzalan of Ray-Ban and Cherry Chiu of Izod

KORINA Sanchez

SEN. MAR Roxas

PINKY Webb

EDU Manzano

DESIGNER of the hour Lulu Tan-Gan, Megaworld's Kevin Tan and his steady date, southern belle and owner of Boutique Hotel Tagaytay, Allana Montelibano

AC OCAMPO, Sandy Espinosa and Luke Lee

MAYENNE Carmona, Air France's Louie Vergeon and Jojo Zabarte

ARNEL Papa, Anna Rocha and Michi Calica

CLAUDIA Morada and Lilibeth Campo

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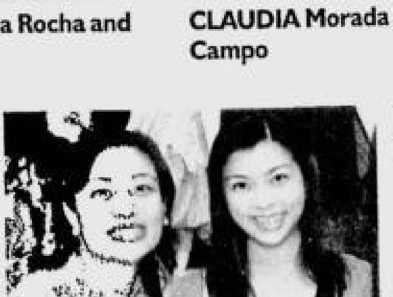

MALU Gamboa and Chai Miranda

MEL MEER

Yuppie feminine styles

PARTY wear

OFFICE attire

THE FASHION NEEDS OF YOUNG women professionals between 18 and 35 are what Urban & Co seeks to satisfy.

Urban & Co focuses on "wearer-friendly" clothing made of tropical fabrics that are very light and comfortable. The designs are American- and European-inspired with clean lines. They are simple to wear and have no frills.

The colors are light, intense or playful, depending on the many preoccupations of busy women.

Previously known as UrbanWear, Urban & Co was incorporated in 1994 with associates in the United States, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia and India.

Urban & Co is for the urban woman everywhere. Its styles are feminine, but flexible and universal.

FORMAL wear

URBAN & CO focuses on clothing made of tropical fabrics that are very light and comfortable.

Scientifically proven:

EUROPEAN STUDY SHOWS UP TO 3X MORE WEIGHT LOSS WITH XANDO

Xando Block and Burn inventor Nils Mortensen and Weight Management Researcher Dr. Erling Thom share the results of Xando's clinical study.

A clinical study published in the International Journal of Medical Research revealed that people using Xando Block and Burn tablets lost up to three times more weight than dieting alone.

The study entitled "A Randomized Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Trial of a New Weight-Reducing Agent of Natural Origin," published in 2000, showed the results of a clinical test conducted by Dr. Erling Thom at PAREXEL Clinical Research, Lillestrom, Norway.

Dr. Thom, one of the leading European researchers in weight management with over 10 published academic papers on the subject, discussed the results of the clinical trial. "We took a group of overweight people and divided them into two test groups. The groups were balanced in terms of weight and age to ensure they were comparable," Dr. Thom narrated. "Both groups were placed on a 1200Kcal diet. One was given Xando Block and Burn Tablets and the other was given tablets with no active ingredients."

"The results showed the group on the Xando Block and Burn lost up to three times more weight than the other group. The placebo group lost an average of 1.2 kg while the group on Xando Block and Burn lost 3.5 kg. We then looked at where the weight loss came from. It is important that healthy weight loss be predominantly from fat, not muscle tissue. For the group using Xando Block and Burn Tablets, 85% of their weight loss was fat," announced Dr. Thom.

Aside from the positive results of the trial, Dr. Thom also had accolades for Xando Block and Burn. "The beauty of using Xando Block and Burn is that this weight management solution recognizes the power of natural human desire to eat and does not try to subvert, alter or deny this urge," declared Dr. Thom.

Instead, Xando Block and Burn lets people lose weight comfortably by letting them eat the food that they love, then blocks excess carbohydrates from food. Its three natural active ingredients - Phaseolamin (extract from kidney beans), Inulin (extract from chicory), and Garcinia - work three ways to help people trim down weight: it blocks calories from "big" carbohydrates such as pasta, bread, and noodles; it blocks "small" carbs from foods such as pastries, cakes, and chocolates; and it inhibits excess carbs from being converted into fat.

Xando Block and Burn Tablets inventor Mr. Nils Mortensen was pleased to hear the results of the study. "The reason I invented Xando tablet was to help people lose weight safely," he said.

Xando is exclusively available at all Watsons outlets nationwide. For more information, please call 727-9999 or 0922-88-XANDO (92636).

"I lost 7 lbs. in two weeks!"

I love chocolates. I eat chocolates all the time, wherever, whenever – until I started gaining weight. When I tried Xando, not only did I lose 2 inches off my waistline, but it also helped curb my craving for sweets.

Noreene Tabarangao
Banker

"I looked fab & fit in time for my wedding."

I took Xando before my wedding to lose weight. It was so effective that on our honeymoon travels, I ate different types of food without fear of bulging. Xando helps me stay fit, that's why I continue to use it.

Ethel Bernales
Entrepreneur

"I lost weight safely and steadily."

I started taking Xando as a supplement to help me with my diet. I went from 205 lbs. to 198 lbs. in 3 weeks. Slow but steady and healthy, without side effects like palpitations - believe me, I know palpitations because I love coffee. Now I feel lighter, healthier and this fact rubs off on my patients.

Jun de Guzman, MD
Doctor

"I'm down 2 sizes because of Xando."

Being in the spotlight, I need to keep my body trim and fit. With Xando, it was easy to lose weight without changing my lifestyle. Best of all, there are no side effects— no palpitations, no upset stomachs. Xando's my license to enjoy food and my life!

Pat Daza
TV Host/Media Executive

Trust us, Xando works!

Lorna Tolentino
Award-winning actress/TV host

Boy Abunda
Award-winning TV host/PR maven

Kris Aquino
Award-winning actress/TV host

"I lost a total of 30 lbs. in 3 months!"

I've tried everything to lose weight, from going to the gym to dieting, but nothing worked. Then Xando helped me lose so much weight, fast and easy! I went from a double XL to just XL. Now Xando's part of my lifestyle that includes a healthy diet and not to forget, an active social life!

Janeth Chang
Businesswoman

"Xando fits my needs and my lifestyle."

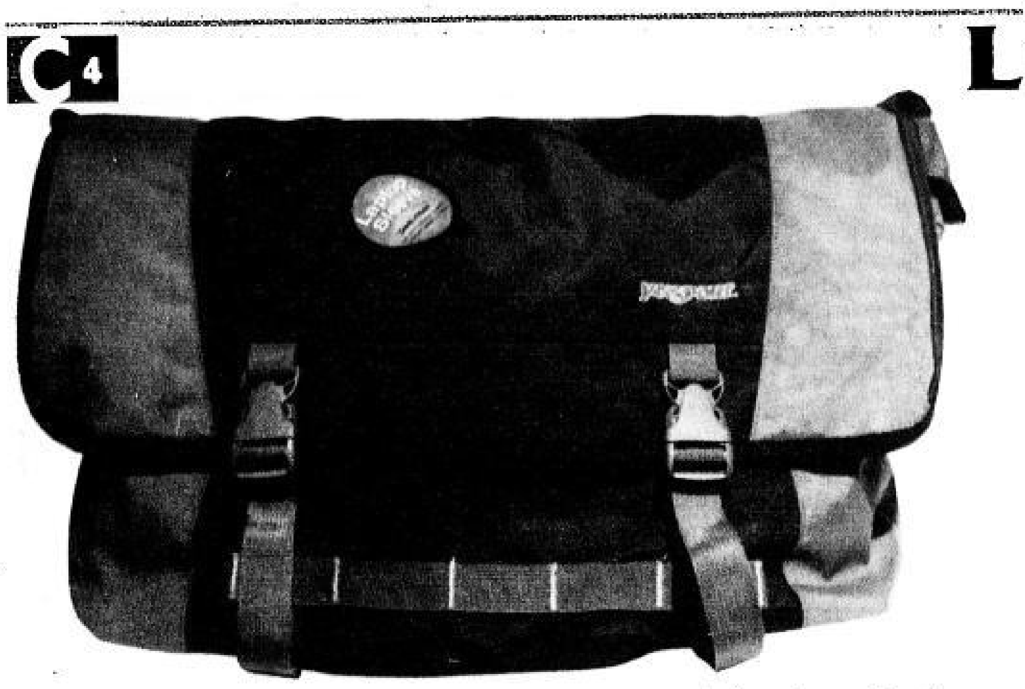
My typical day includes going to the gym, dining and having coffee with friends, and tasting all the ice cream flavors and fix-ins in my shop. Thanks to Xando, I'm able to maintain my ideal weight and keep up with my busy lifestyle.

Joubert Yao
Operations Executive

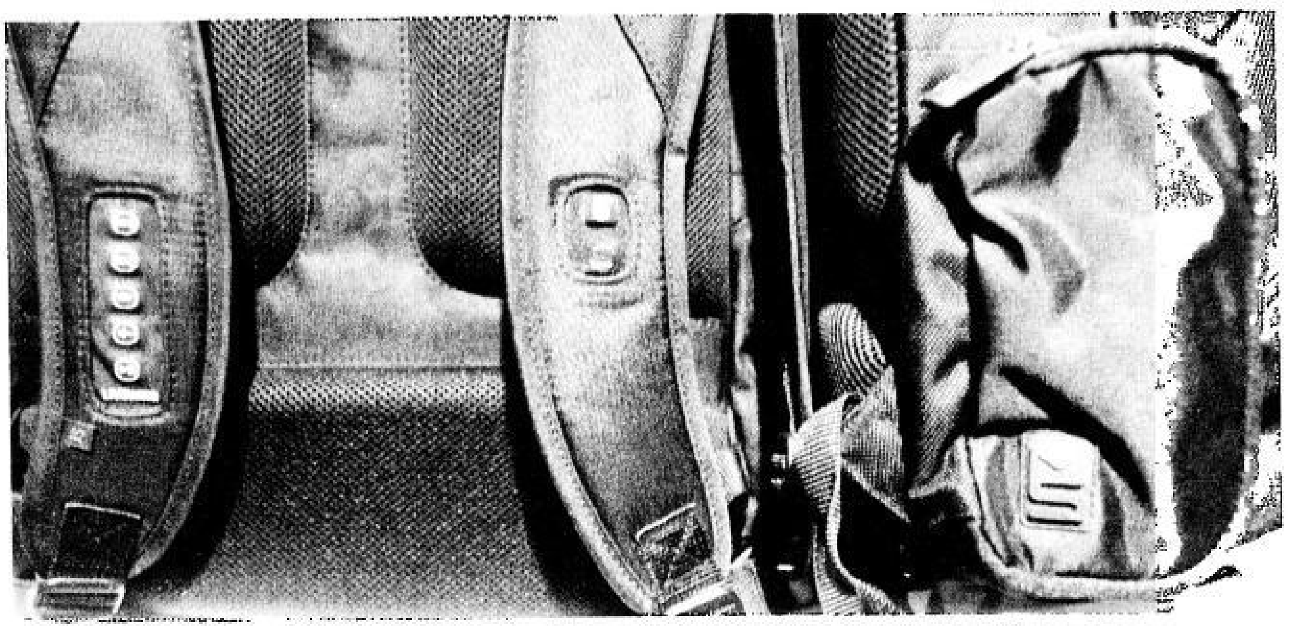
To know more about the product, call:
727-9999•0922-88-XANDO (92636)
Available exclusively at
Watsons your personal store

NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS
BFAD APPROVED FR-56705

Xando™
Block & Burn
Tablets
DIETARY SUPPLEMENT



FLYWHEEL laptop sleeve with adjustable shoulder strap comes in five color combinations.



The bag that roared

From page C1

business school, to come on board as sales and marketing man. A lover of the outdoors himself, Yowell doesn't need much convincing. The rest, as they say, is history.

JanSport is probably one of the most recognizable brands in the world. But not many know that this name that has scaled many heights and has sat on top of the world—quite literally, having outfitted some of the world's top mountain climbers—started in a cramped transmission shop (Pletz's dad's), practically a garage outfit where Mom, Dad, sisters and brothers all played a part.

It has been 40 years since the birth of JanSport, but Yowell still speaks fondly of the three young hippies that they were, revolutionaries of the backpacking industry who had no money and entrepreneurial experience, much less a business plan to back their daring.

Yowell's book

Yowell was in town to promote his book, "The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder & Other Mountains," a biographical account of JanSport's history that reads not so much as a business model as much as an enjoyable ride-along into the life adventures of one of the brand's founders.

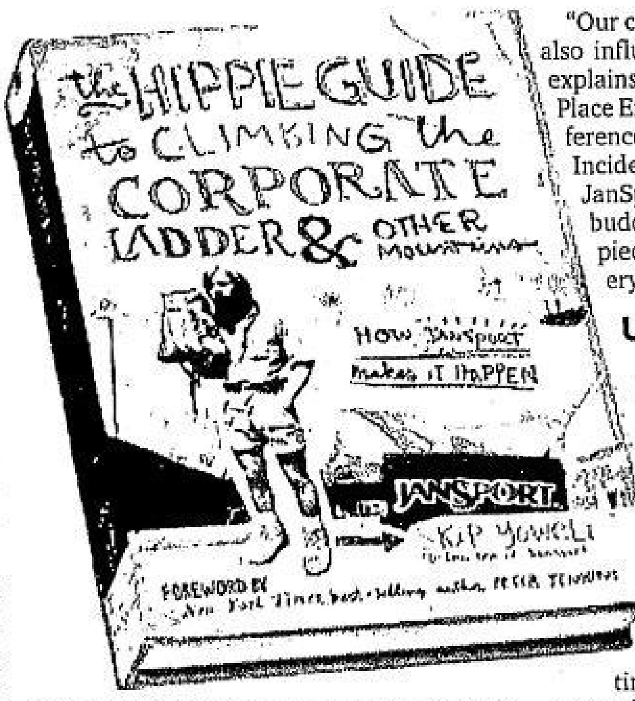
JanSport started with just seven styles that included big-frame packs for backpacking, ski packs and daypacks. In the '70s, Yowell says, students carried books under their arms that JanSport reinforced the bottom of their daypacks, becoming the book bags we know today. The book bag, used today from America to Tibet, is the product that's closest to Yowell's heart.

"We've come full circle," he says. "But even then, we made flower prints that set us apart from those who were making only red and green packs. Today we have 38 colors."

JanSport's design core has always been to be durable and functional that every item carries a lifetime warranty.

Yowell boasts that their Flower Power firm has kept up with the digital times. It was one of the first companies to collaborate with Apple Computers, incorporating a technology that allows the user control of the iPod without taking it out of the pack. Bluetooth technology is also introduced in some of its higher-end styles, allowing user hands-free access to his mobile phone.

BACKPACK convertible Wheeled Superbreak, with inline skate wheels, comes in 13 prints and colors.


the HIPPIE GUIDE to CLIMBING the CORPORATE LADDER & OTHER Mountains
How JanSport makes it HAPPEN
JANSPORT
FOREWORD BY

SCALING HEIGHTS. Skip Yowell's enjoyable tome on the business model—or lack of it—that made JanSport a legend

THE HAILEY

THE BRATPACK chain sells one-off works by featured artists each month, like this one by Art Express.

"Our core age group is 18-24, because they also influence the age below them," Yowell explains. At the Bratpack store in Robinsons Place Ermita, where Yowell held a press conference, the daypacks remain top sellers. Incidentally, the store chain is using the JanSport packs as virtual canvas of some budding artists, who create one-off pieces; different artists are featured every month in each branch.

Universal

"Our products are universal, though we have found that the smaller packs are more popular in Asia," says Yowell. He says that it was also JanSport that first created the dome tents that are an industry standard today. In the book, he laments how they had failed to secure patent for the tent's design, their hands being full with the pack business at the time. (JanSport stopped making the tents when the factory it hired produced bags of inconsistent quality.)

JanSport changed ownership several times through the years. Pletz left the firm in 1982; Peterson (now known as Jan Lewis) retired two years ago. (The couple split in the '70s, according to online sources, though Yowell doesn't mention this in the book, nor does he elaborate on Pletz's departure.)

At JanSport, now under VF Corp., which also owns Lee Jeans, Wrangler Jeans and The North Face, only Yowell has remained of the three founders. "I'm a little bit unique in the outdoor industry because I stayed with the company even through different ownerships, and I'm still very involved 24/7," he says.

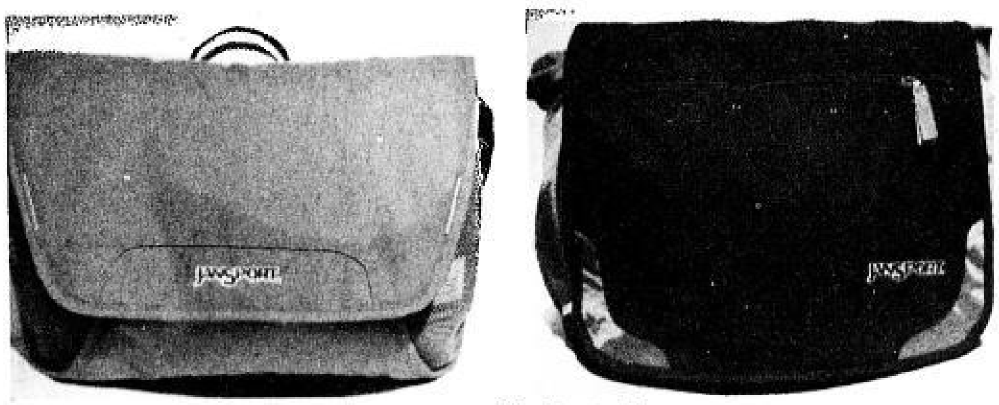
Yowell's title is VP for Global Relations, a position that essentially brings him to across the globe as spokesperson of the brand. Not too shabby for a man who refused to trade his pack for a briefcase.

"Every day is different. I've been involved in so many aspects, in nonprofit programs, product development, events and promos, trade shows." He heads programs that support disadvantaged youths, and provide sponsorships to mountain expeditions. (The book details Yowell's clever marketing campaigns in the early years; to wit, donor-companies and individuals had their names photographed with their sponsored yaks, which transported the climbers' supplies, at the foot of Mt. Everest.)

LIVEWIRE BT technology in the Alt pack incorporates iPod controls on the shoulder straps and Bluetooth for mobile phone (details in top photo). Alt also features the Shockshield laptop sleeve. It retails for P14,970.

THE HEX has an insulated cooler compartment and a removable three-ring binder.

"I take the business seriously, but never myself," says Yowell, who starred with his cofounders in their own ad campaigns in the early days. "That's what remained of our original concept: to keep the company fun. Whatever you do, make sure you have a real passion for that. [To succeed in business] it's not just a special skill; it's not any one thing. You develop relationships, you think out of the box, you innovate and have fun as you go through life. You learn from experiences. You must enjoy; it's more important than money."



CONDUIT (left) and Elefunk, single-strap padded laptop bags

Goings On

RP's new top model

GRENDEL ALVARADO WAS RECENTLY proclaimed the grand winner of "Philippines' Next Top Model," the first reality modeling series in the country produced by Solar Entertainment Corp. and hosted by Ruffa Gutierrez on RPN-9. Alvarado's package of prizes includes a modeling representation with Starz Modeling Agency in Hong Kong; half a million pesos in cash courtesy of Mane and Tail Shampoo; an eight-page fashion editorial in Preview magazine; P150,000 modeling contract with Saga Events; one-year endorsement contract from Celine group of companies; advertorials for L'Oreal Paris for a year for the brand's local campaigns; one-year body contouring program from Marie France and one-year complementary treatment from Facial Care Center; and a natural golden South Sea pearl necklace from Jewelmer, plus the title Jewelmer's Pearl ambassador to the world.

BOOK FAIR. The 1st Philippine Academic Library Suppliers Book Fair is set July 16-20, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at the UP Alumni Hostel, Diliman, QC. A series of seminars will highlight the four-day book fair. Call 9279858.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. will hold a seminar on digital photography July 14, 21 and 28 at Room 302-A, Femii Bldg., A. Soriano Avenue, Intramuros, Manila. Call 5247576 or 5280371.

WEDDING SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a three-day wedding seminar on July 17. Call 5247576, 5280371 or 5255792 for details.

PROMO. Picatoo, a local online photo developing website (www.picatoo.com), and Toshiba present this year's BPI Madness, until July 1. Every purchase of a Toshiba laptop entitles customers to free prints courtesy of Picatoo.

WED PROMO. Myspa Wellness Center in Starmall Las Piñas presents "Before and After the Wedding Promo" for brides-to-be. The promo includes two special packages: the Swedish Special and the Body Scrub Elite. Call 8748803 for details.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Education Deans Association (Peda) holds a National Conference on Best Practices in Education on July 7 at Escaler Hall, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The one-day conference is open to education deans, associate/assistant deans, department heads and faculty. The conference is endorsed by the Commission on Higher Education. Call 9299322 or e-mail peda06@gmail.com.

SYMPOSIUM. The IOSTE Regional Symposium on Science Education for Sustainable Development is set July 19-21 at the University of the Philippines National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (UP Nismed). IOSTE is the International Organization for Science and Technology Education. The Symposium is organized by the UP College of Education, UP Nismed and the UP Integrated School. Call 9299322 or e-mail iosteph07.com.

WORKSHOP. Adarna House in partnership with Filipinas Heritage Library is now accepting entries for the 6th Barlaya Writing for Young Adults Workshop. Entries should be sent to Adarna House, 2/F, FSS Building, 20 Scout Tuason corner Scout Castor Sts., QC, not later than 5 p.m. on July 2. Call 3723548 local 110 or e-mail events@adarna.com.ph.

ANNIVERSARY. The Sigma Rho Fraternity of UP Los Baños will mark its 50th anniversary this year with the theme "Sigma Rho, Solid Gold." One of the oldest fraternities in UPLB, Sigma Rho has chosen the theme to celebrate the strong fraternal ties that has bound its members for 50 years. One of the highlights of the celebration is a grand fraternity ball on July 7 at the Senior's Social Garden inside the UPLB Campus. Log on to www.sigmarho.org.ph or contact Jojo Fornesa (Batch '89) at jo_frnsa@yahoo.com; Potch Santos (Batch '98) at potch98b@yahoo.com or 0917-8143473; and John Callo at actuarialstaff@yahoo.com or 0917-8313073.

REBATE. Petron-BPI MasterCard combines the strengths of Petron, Bank of the Philippine Islands and MasterCard to offer a full-service motorist card. First, all fuel purchases at participating Petron service stations earn a three-percent rebate for Petron-BPI MasterCard holders. Effective until the end of the year, each time a cardholder loads up on either Petron Blaze, XCS Complete Combustion System, Xtra Unleaded or the new generation DieselMax, he is credited back three percent of the purchase amount in his next monthly statement. To welcome new cardholders, Petron offers a P200 free fuel certificate which can be redeemed at any participating station. To apply, call 89-100 for details. Annual fees are waived for the first year.

CAGAYANONS and members of the Piat Legacy Foundation will mark the feast of Our Lady of Piat on July 1 with a Mass at Club Filipino.

LIFESTYLE

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BEAUTY

SIAN Lagdameo-Lagadra, makeup by Peddi Acebo (0917-6279120)

Blushing bride

Yes, there is such a thing as bridal makeup. Usually, it means a clean and glowing look

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

A GIRL'S WEDDING IS ONE of the biggest events in her life. I know mine was. It can also be the most stressful and expensive in terms of preparation.

But a well-planned wedding can actually be a breeze and a most fun experience. Personally, I had fun preparing for my own. And I realized that as long as you know what you wanted and who to book, it didn't have to mean spending your life savings.

Because, in reality, the marriage starts after the "I do's."

After you have chosen your designer, the next step is to choose your makeup artist. If you are not familiar with makeup artists, why the next best person—your designer, who would know a thing or two about good bridal makeup.

BLUSHING/ D2

Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center Ground Floor Glorietta 3, Ayala Center Shangri-La Plaza Mall

Offer is valid from June 29 to July 22, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2846 Series of 2007

Blushing bride

From page D1

Yes, there is such a thing as bridal makeup. Usually, it means a clean and glowing look. Even if you haven't slept due to all that excitement, a good makeup artist has the power (and the right products) to make you glow.

Juan Sarte did my makeup when I got married. When I asked him to do my makeup, I was so excited. I already knew his work and I knew how he could make a girl look extraordinary while still looking like herself. This point was very important for me. I didn't want to look like a different person. I mean, even if I looked really good, but not like myself, then after many years I might not even believe I was the one who got married!

The bonus was, he didn't charge me for his services and instead offered them as his wedding gift. Believe me, it was one of the best gifts I got! Wedding makeup can be expensive, and preparing for a wedding likewise costs money. So getting free makeup from one of the best in his field was a gift to be treasured and accepted with open arms.

With the help of Romina Urra-Gonzales, Metro Weddings' editor-in-chief, we made a survey of the top bridal makeup artists in the city. See their work on real brides, and take your pick for your big day!

Wedding countdown

Romina shares a pre-wedding beauty countdown for brides. Most brides plan at least six months before the wedding date. This gives the bride enough time to work on a beauty plan of action for her wedding day. It's enough time to see a difference in your skin, your hair, your nails, your weight.

Six months before:

- Serious skincare. Visit a dermatologist and get an assessment on your skin (is it dry, acne-prone, hyper-sensitive?), hair and scalp (is it brittle or dry? Do you want to speed up the lengthening process?) Get advice on proper regimen, products and treatment if needed.
- Workout action plan. Visit the gym or sign up for an aerobic class. If you want to lose weight before your wedding, start early and stick to a regular workout routine. If you want to maintain your weight, focus on strengthening exercises to help you tone up. If you want to gain weight, visit a dietician to help you bulk up.

Five months before:

- Bright whites. Make sure your teeth are bright for your big day. Explore whitening treatments and treat cavities now. You may want to cut down on tea, coffee or cigarettes, all of which can continue to stain your teeth.
- Stress-relief regimen. By now your wedding preparations are in full swing. You are making decisions and starting working on your budget. Make sure you find some quiet time before you start your day to collect your thoughts.

Four months before

- Shop for an artist. Get recommendations from friends or flip through Metro Weddings to check out the work of hair and makeup artists.

Start making phone calls and inquire about their rates and their availability. Shortlist and decide on one or two by the end of the fourth month.

- Research and experiment. Talk to your hairdresser or visit a new salon and discuss your hair style and hair color. At the same time, flip through magazines and get pegs (photos of ideas) of what hair style you want for your wedding. If you want an updo, keep your hair long and just trim regularly. If you want to have your hair down and loose, make sure you get a killer haircut and hair color. This is a good time to experiment.
- Shape your brow. Consider having your eyebrows professionally shaped. This could make or break your face. Also, consider dyeing them lighter to soften your features. But, always leave this to a pro—don't do this yourself!

Three months before

- Trial make-up. Schedule a trial hair and makeup session with your chosen artist. Be sure he applies your makeup in front of natural light and ask for two options. Ask for a light, fresh look and take a picture of yourself. Then, have him/her apply a darker shade for a more dramatic look. Take a picture of this second look as well and use both photos to help you make the final decision. Analyze well and get the opinion of your bridesmaids. With regards to your hair, take photos of the final hairstyle from all angles. Also, ask your makeup artist about the lipstick he used (and you liked) so you can get the same shade (or exact lipstick he used) for touch-ups during your wedding day.

One to two months before

- Shop for hair accessories. Based on your hairstyle and the neckline of your gown, choose accessories that suit your personality. There are many options to consider. A bun wrap, barrettes, tiara, embellished pins, fresh flowers are only some to pick from.
- Get a cleaning. Visit your dermatologist again for a face, back and neck cleaning. It's time to get rid of unsightly bumps, blackheads and acne!

Two weeks before the wedding

- Exfoliate and moisturize. Treat your hands, feet, elbows and knees with extra-special care.
- Touch ups. Check your hair color. Do any necessary touchups and get your final trim.

Grooming your groom

Treat your groom to a grooming treatment. Remind him to trim his hair, have hot oil, manicure, pedicure, massage, whatever he

BLUSHING/D3

GEORGIA Schultze-del Rosario, makeup by Shu Uemura's Xeng Zulueta (0917-5748445)

MALU Fernandez, makeup by Henri Calayag (0917-5308428)

INES Delgado-Prieto, makeup by Propaganda's Cristine Del Valle (893-4098)

APPLES Aberin-Sadhwahi, makeup by Propaganda's Jing Monis (893-4098)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF METRO WEDDINGS

Gising Na!
Breakfast Meals at Dencio's

Think DENCIO'S is good only for lunch and after-hours bonding with friends, officemates and colleagues?

Not anymore! With DENCIO'S new Gising Na! Breakfast Meals, call center agents trudging home from work, joggers and early birds enroute to the office can now enjoy hearty Pinoy meals to start (or end) their day.

DENCIO'S Gising Na! Breakfast Combo Meals include Beef Tapa Tips, Lukban Longganisa, Vigan Longganisa, Beef Adobo Flakes and Daing na Bangus - all served with tasty garlic rice and two eggs (except for Daing na Bangus which comes with one egg).

As the perfect starter - and capper – to your day, you can head on to selected DENCIO'S outlets for your Gising Na! meals, including CCP Complex, Eastwood, Greenhills, Jupiter, Capitol Hills and Paseo Center.

In addition, DENCIO'S remains the ideal place for any-day-of-the-week gimmicks with families and friends. DENCIO'S is also perfect for parties, big meetings or company functions. Reservations can be made online through its website at www.dencios.biz or call hotline number 819-0155 for details.

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2268 series of 2007

Wedding looks; the wonders of 'hilot'

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

BASED ON THE NUMEROUS E-MAILS I got on the subject, it would appear the peak dates for a Filipino Catholic wedding are July 16, Sept. 8 and Dec. 8. The common factor for those three dates are feast days of the Blessed Virgin Mary such as, in proper order, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, and Immaculate Conception.

There was great interest on who styled my hair and did my make-up when I was bridesmaid to my friend's May 28 wedding.

As I have no photos from the event I requested for the ones my stylist took right before I left the salon.

The hair cut and highlights were done Louis Philippe Kee, but the formal styling and makeup was by Mr. Ray. Eyelash extensions by Melinda and artists from Razzle Dazzle salon.

The gown: peach Japanese chiffon by Rajo Laurel.

Overall, I was happy with the staying power, foundation match, and color selection of the makeup. But I added brown eyeshadow for more depth before the march started as I felt in the photo that my Oriental eyes looked heavy-lidded and a bit too suggestive to leave the bedroom.

Mestizas or those with big round eyes would look great, but if your eyes are on the *chinois* side, you risk looking puffy.

My hair although styled was not stiff but moved when I did and the sexy waves did not go limp despite the humidity. Call Razzle Dazzle salon at 8402880 or 8482388.

Pinoy massage

Those chained to the desk from nine to five at least five days a week, carry a heavy bag, and hunched over a computer monitor are acquainted with shoulder, neck and back pains.

If you do not qualify for the options above, but still have the back pains you are probably overweight, taking care of toddlers, or sleeping on the wrong mattress.

Anyhow this has been a nagging problem for me and no amount of body massage seems to solve the problem completely.

Surfing the net, I read some foreigner's blog raving about her trip to the Philippines and discovering "hilot" which soothed her nagging shoulder pains, sore calf muscles and upper hips from sleeping in the wrong position. She claimed that she felt reborn and that pain seemed like a distant memory after one session.

Problem was she was somewhere in the Visayas at the time, and I was not willing to go that far to road test. Asking around, I found there were two establishments here in Manila that offer *hilot*—Sofitel Philippine Plaza Spa and Philosophy Wellness Spa at Pasay Road, Makati.

Since it was nearer my house I chose Philosophy and dragged my mom with me who suffered nagging sore spots as well.

Results: We are now both hooked!

At first my face was contorting in pain as Yen, my masseuse and "hilot" expert, dealt with the knots and lumps on my upper hip, shoulders and lower back, which apparently was caused by stress, the wrong chair and time to replace my now flattened pillows.

After a while, it felt as if a great weight was literally lifted off me and I felt great and energized. The pain did not come back till three weeks after as I went back to the same bad habits.

Another masseuse I would recommend is Leah whose specialty is Deep Tissue Massage.

I woke up one PMS day and none of my shoes would fit, my clothes were all tight and my cellulite was scary. Sure enough I weighed and had gained seven pounds from the previous week and it hurt my feet to walk.

Headaches, constipation and uncontrollable cravings for salty food and starches were also present.

I went to Philosophy in sweat pants and flip-flops and had myself booked for Xiamen foot reflexology P300 for an hour, which includes shoulder and back massage on their comfy leather massage chair that converts to a table.

(Look for Chona or Lirio.)

It felt great as usual, but this time I felt I needed something more so the girls suggested Deep Tissue.

Leah found my sore spots and areas where air and gas were trapped and kneaded them ruthlessly.

After that I went to the bathroom and released water for over a minute. Sweat started oozing from every pore and my bathroom habits became regular when I got home and upon waking up the next morning. Next day, I weighed in and I was five pounds lighter -- and my shoes fit!

Now I only have two more pounds to lose and regain my post-PMS weight and get the flat tummy and trimmer thighs back.

Hilot and Deep Tissue cost P880 each. Philosophy is open till 10 p.m. Call 8921574.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

THE COLUMNIST as a bridesmaid

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Other beginner courses
F. Merchandising · 8 Fri (Jul6-Aug24) 9-6
Men's Wear 8 Fri (Jul6-Aug24) 9-6
F. Accessories - 4 Mon (Jul16-Aug3) 9-6
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Basic Design - Jul2-Aug20 (M/W) 6:30-10
Basic Pattern - Jul3-Aug21 (T/Th) 6:30-10
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Basic Design Jul16-Jul24 (8 days) 9-6
Basic Pattern Jul25-Aug3 (8 days) 9-6
Advance Pattern-Aug6-Aug15 (8days) 9-6
Haute Couture · Aug16-Aug27(8days) 9-6
Saturday Classes- Sep1-Dec15
Basic Design - 9AM-1PM (16 Sat)
Basic Pattern - 2PM- 6PM (16 Sat)

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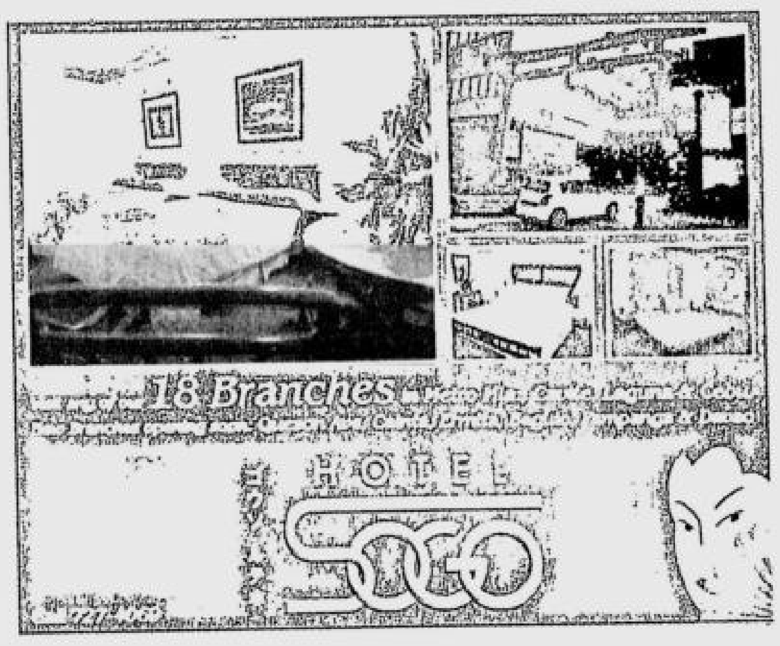
Mika Lagdameo-Martinez, makeup by Propaganda's Juan Sarte (893-4098)

AMINA Aranaz-Alunan, makeup by Studio 546's Erick Maningat (638-3956)



Blushing bride

From page D2

really enjoys!

1 week before

- Wax it off. Get a bikini wax. If you want to surprise your groom, go for the Brazilian!
- Massage time. Go with some friends and get an excellent massage or reflexology treatment.
- Kill the salt. You don't want to be bloated on your wedding day. This week, eat well, cut down on salty food and ditch the white carb. Stick to healthy meals. Anyway, you have a few days to go before the Big Day.

1 day before

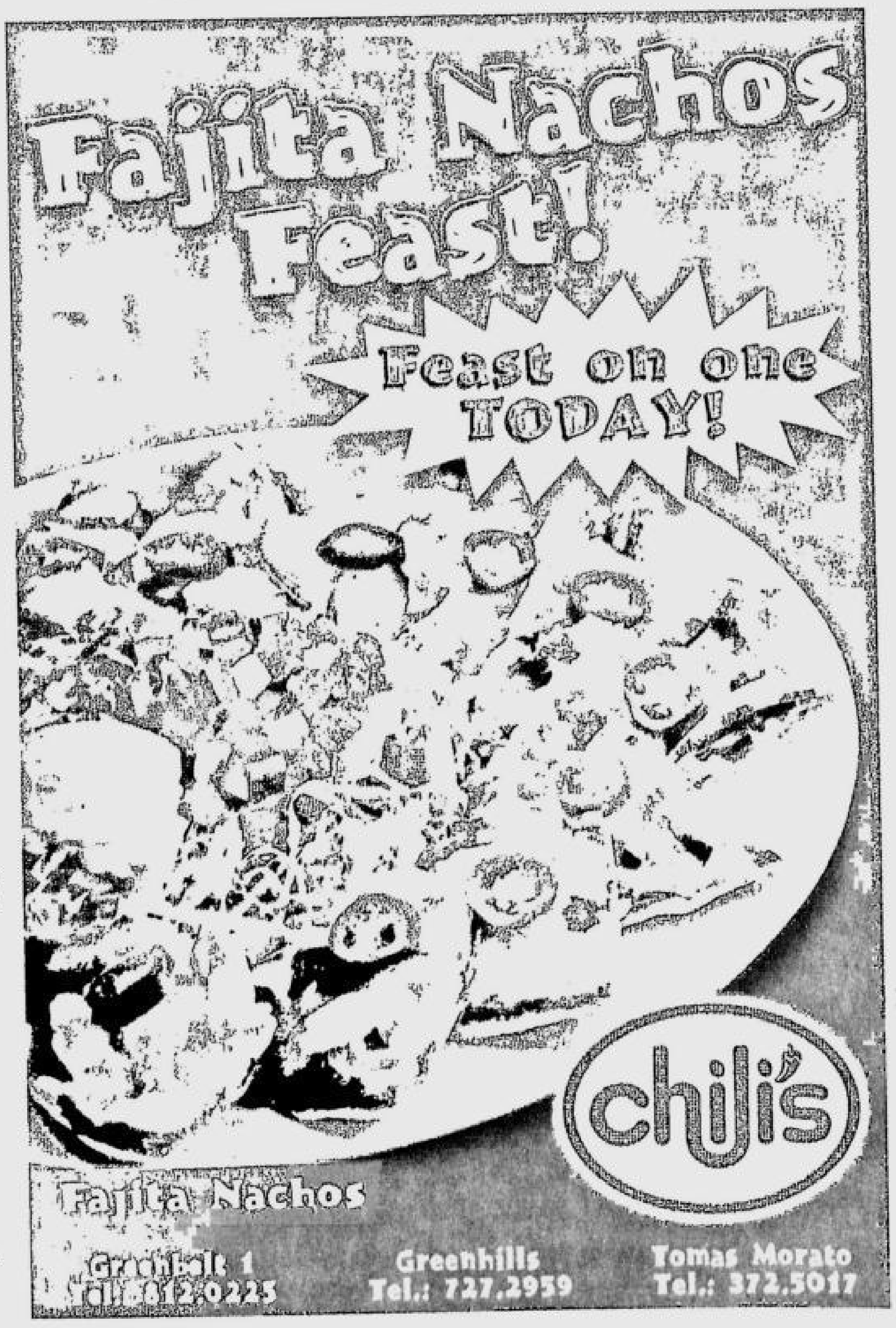
- Last stop at salon. Go early and get a manicure/pedicure and a deep-conditioning treatment for your hair. Enjoy and relax.
- Home-alone time. Take a long bath and use your favorite scented body wash, scrub, lotion or oil before bed. Use this same regimen and product for your wedding day for a long-lasting, clean and fresh scent.
- Beauty emergency kit. Pack double-sided tape, sewing kit, mints, lipstick, blotting paper and extra hair pins for your bridal bag.
- On your wedding day. Bring a robe or wear a button-down shirt when you are having your hair and makeup done. Double-check your bridal bag for lipstick, blotting paper and mints.
- Eat! This is not the time to starve yourself. Eat a healthy and light meal before you put on your dress.
- Forget about it. Now, you should be all set—a radiant and blooming bride. Make sure to leave all worries at your hotel room and smile. Don't rush the festivities. Focus on your wedding ceremony, enjoy the festivities at the reception and relish your honeymoon.

Metro Weddings is published twice a year with the next issue out in news stands in July.

Chi Atienza-Valdepenas, makeup by Bedhead's Leo Posadas (0918-93542557)

Liz Almoro, makeup by Krist Bansuelo (0918-9058941)

Natalia Lobregat-Olondriz, makeup by Patrick Rosas (0917-8252288)



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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Contributing Editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

FASHION
Wedding belle

BEADED gown trimmed with illusion tulle by Eric de los Santos, 0920-9264342; earrings by Bleustone; bouquet by April Yu, 0917-8424500

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

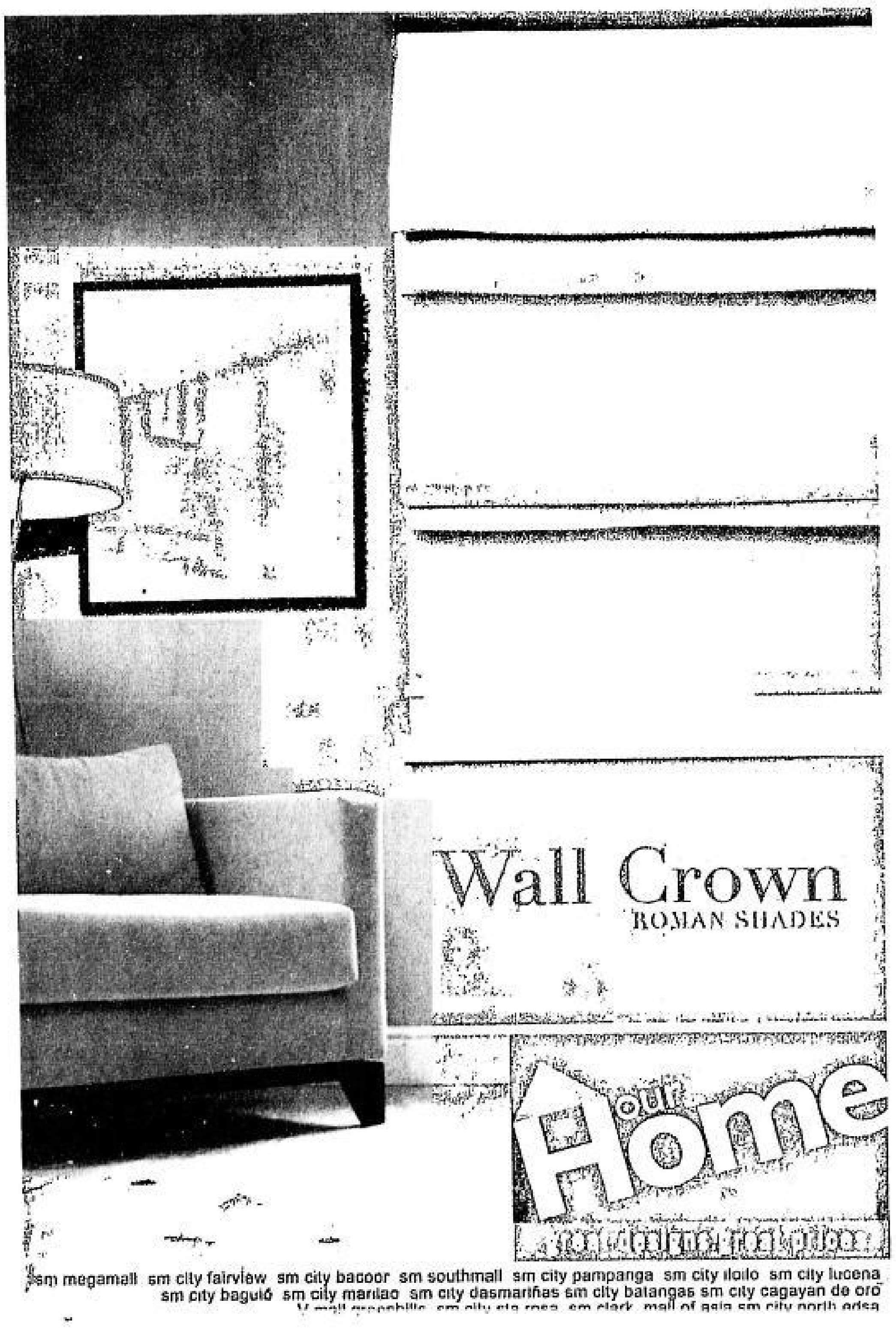
The perfect wedding gown

Keep in mind that your choice of finery must accentuate your best features while disguising your flaws

NOW THAT YOU'VE found the right man—your soul mate and best friend—and you're wearing that large rock on your left ring finger, it's time to buckle down to work and start planning your big day.

We're assuming that you're tying the knot in around six months to a year (FYI, December and June are the most popular months for weddings, so book your church and reception

THE PERFECT/ E2



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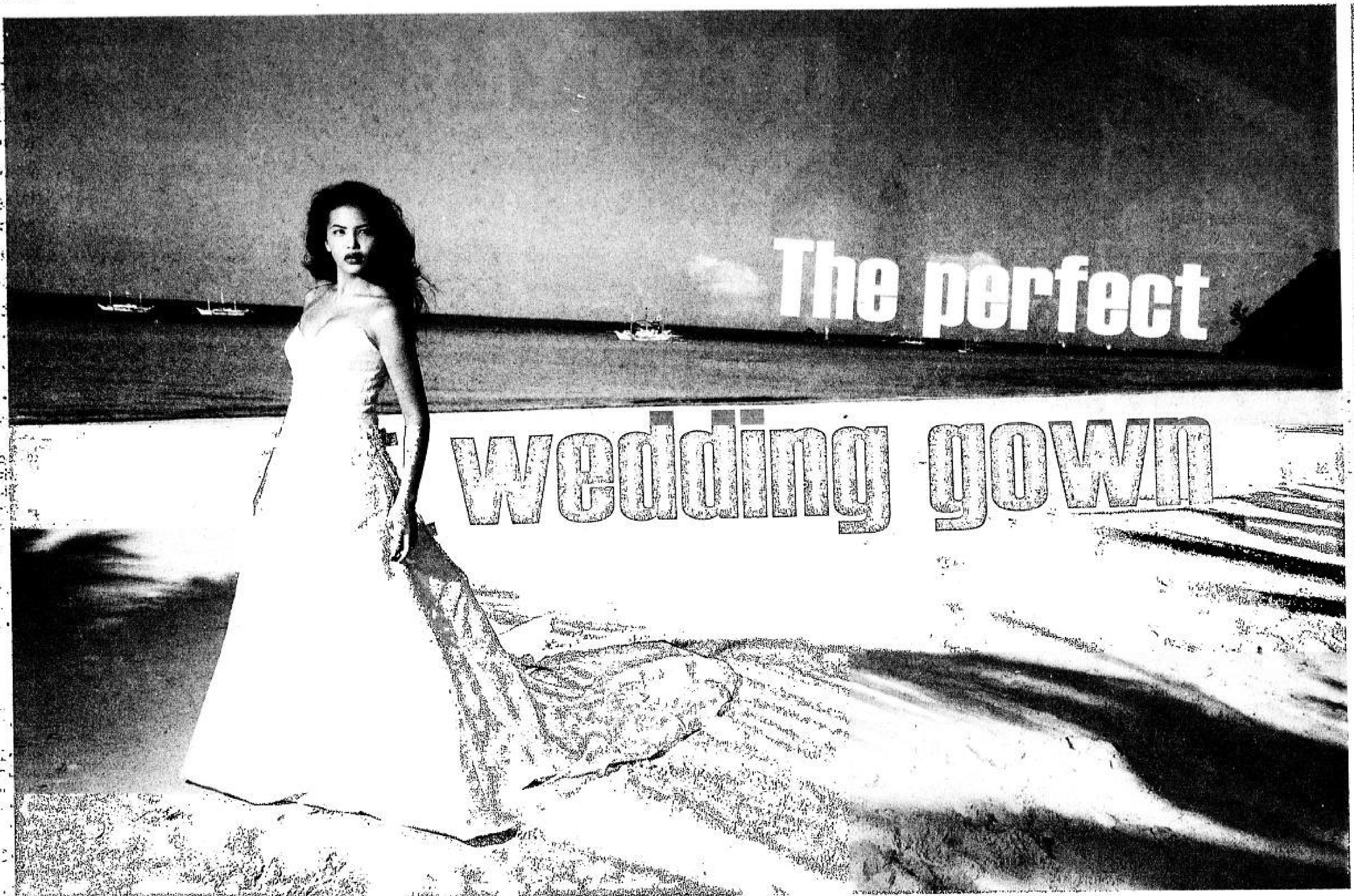
The perfect wedding gown



Day dreams

Beaded white satin tube gown with blue chiffon detail and train by Edwin Tan, 0917-8455488

Photography Pat Dy
Styling Bianca Consunji
Makeup
Jigs Mayuga of L'oreal Paris
Models
Patty Ortega and Rafael Kiefer
Shot on location
at Discovery Shores, Boracay
Special thanks
to Seair and Marbee Go
of Wedding Essentials

From page E1

venues early). That means there's more than enough time to make the wedding of your dreams come to life.

Weddings are truly special, once-in-a-lifetime affairs. It's that one extraordinary day when all eyes are focused on you, as you walk down that flower-strewn aisle in one of the happiest, most memorable moments of your life.

One aspect that will make your wedding more special and unique is your choice of wedding gown, the most important (and possibly most expensive) article of clothing you will ever purchase for the rest of your fashionable life.

Naturally, you want to find The One that would reflect your personality and express your dreams and ideals—not to mention make you look your most beautiful. Even though you'll probably end up wearing the gown just once in your life, it still has to create the most impact.

To help you find the perfect wedding gown, here are a few practical tips to consider:

Know thyself

You're getting married, so we're assuming you know who you are, inside and out. By now, you should already have a pretty good idea of the kind of wedding you want to have.

Then again, a little research in the style department always helps. Pore through bridal magazines and websites for themes, designs, color motifs that appeal to you. Now's the time to start a scrapbook of sorts, so you can keep track of choices that you'd eventually have to narrow down.

Knowing yourself also means accepting and working with the body you have. So keep in mind that your choice of wedding gown must accentuate your best features while disguising your flaws.

Find inspiration

Still not sure of what kind of gown or wedding you want? Get your creative juices flowing by doing even more research.

Watch movies with wedding themes like "Father of the Bride" featuring a gorgeous Elizabeth Taylor or "Runaway Bride" with Julia Roberts. Or grab ideas from classics like "Gone with the Wind," "Gigi," "Funny Face," "Sabrina," "High Society" or "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

Consider your theme

Once you've decided on the theme, take it into consideration when having your gown made. A semiformal beach wedding, for instance, calls for something flowy, unstructured and a bit relaxed. A traditional wedding in a cathedral followed by a formal reception, on the other hand, will require a more formal gown in, say, Mikado silk, with a train and some embellishment.

Consider your budget

It is of utmost importance to know how much you can spend on your wedding gown. But it is even more important to know how you can get the gown you want with the budget you've set aside for it.

Start by asking around for recommendations. Friends who've recently tied the knot can offer good input on the best designers and prices. Bridal fairs are also good sources, as are magazines and wedding websites.

You can set appointments with around three designers of your choice to see if your styles, personalities and budgets jive. If not, ask around for a reliable *costurera* or dressmaker who might be able to help you out.

Consider your comfort

Comfort is also a primary concern, so don't choose a style you're not completely confident about. If you've never worn a strapless, body-hugging sheath, your wedding day is not the best time to try it out.

Plus, when fitting your gown, try sitting, dancing and hugging so you know that you can easily move around while entertaining your guests or going through the various wedding rituals. You can also try waving your arms around to make sure the shoulders and sleeves aren't constricting. Remember, comfort and confidence always go hand in hand.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Precious moments

On Rafael: linen barong and pants by Edwin Tan, 0917-8455488.
On Patty: beaded silk gown by Michi Calica, 0917-8911968; necklace and bracelet from Luna

Beaded bliss

Gown by Tina Daniac, 0917-8928462; Wildflower and orchid bouquet by April Yu, 0917-8424500

Blushing bride

Fully embroidered gown with chiffon flower detail by Eric delos Santos; 0920-9264342

Perfect pair
On Rafael: linen barong and pants by Edwin Tan, 0917-8455488.
On Patty: embroidered dress with illusion tulle by Tippi Ocampo, 0917-8170952; earrings by Luna

SILVER strappy sandals are always a safe bet.

If the shoe fits

By Bianca Consunji
Contributor

THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS TO consider when choosing your wedding shoes.

First of all, you must make sure they are comfortable. If you expect to dance all night at your wedding, then go for footwear that would allow you to look good without crippling you. As gowns look odd when worn with flats (unless you're doing a beach wedding), go for moderately high heels—a two-inch heel is ideal, three at the most.

Pencil-thin stilettos will only make your walk awkward, especially since you have to support yourself in a long gown while carrying a bouquet. It would be a nightmare if you suddenly trip in the aisle because of impractical shoes.

Take the venue of the reception into consideration before you pick your shoes. A hotel ballroom or a garden reception? Again, practicality is key: unless you want to spend the night pulling your heels out of the ground, go for a lower, wider heel when you're in an outdoor venue.

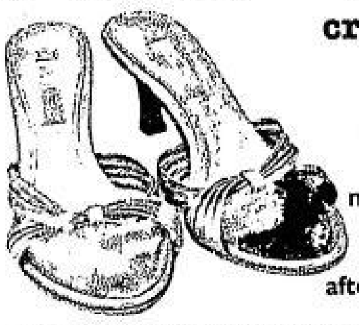
Indoor receptions are not as difficult; here, you can choose thinner heels with more height. However, make sure you'd be comfortable walking around in them for hours, because slipping into a pair of rubber flip-flops in the middle of the reception will leave you looking like you're in your *pambahay* at your own wedding.

Go for simple but elegant accents in the shoes. Small ribbons, dainty flowers, tiny jewels—they can brighten up your feet without looking over the top. Shoes with long wraparound ribbons might easily come undone and may lead to potential disaster.

If you're practical and want to reuse your shoes even after the wedding, go for neutral colors such as beige, cream, even pastel pink instead of the usual white, which can be hard to pair with other outfits after the ceremony.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

If you expect to dance all night at your wedding, then go for footwear that would allow you to look good without crippling you

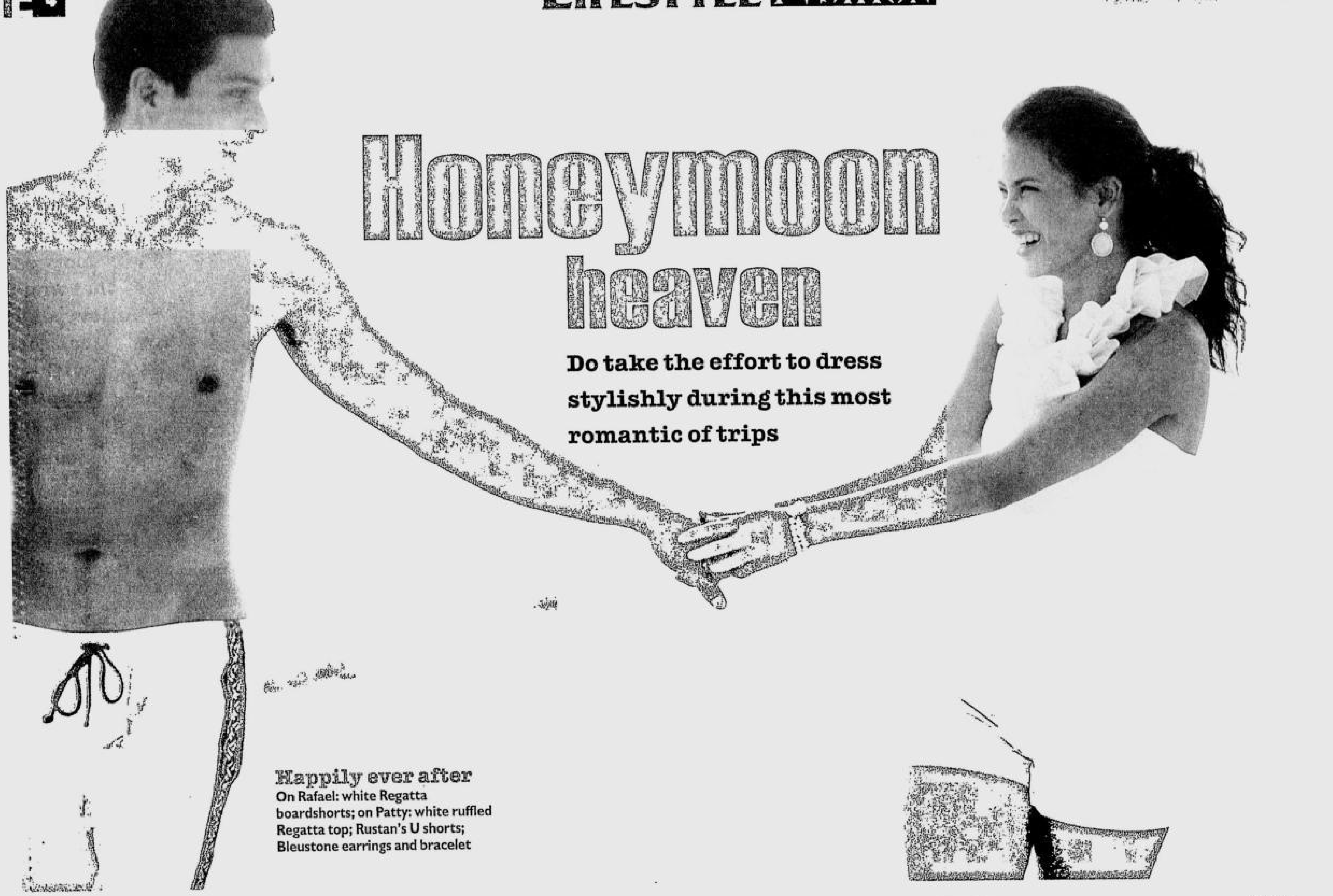


YOU can't go wrong with metallic mules that you can reuse even after the big day.

GO JAZZY with this silver, gold and white number.

PICK basic sandals with striking details like these beige sandals with yellow rhinestones.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED TODAY?
BAMBOO
PENSHOPPE



Honeymoon heaven

Do take the effort to dress stylishly during this most romantic of trips

Happily ever after
On Rafael: white Regatta boardshorts; on Patty: white ruffled Regatta top; Rustan's U shorts; Bleustone earrings and bracelet

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

TRUE LOVE. UNBRIDLED PASsion. Sweet romance. These are but some of the ingredients that will make your honeymoon unforgettable and heavenly.

At this point in your relationship, it may not even matter what clothes you wear, or how you look. Everything is simply perfect when you're in love!

But do heed Inquirer Fashion's piece of honeymoon fashion advice. Do take the effort to dress stylishly during this most romantic of trips. Keep the thrill alive by dressing for your man in pretty pieces that will remind him why he should be oh-so-thankful you chose him.

Plus, you'll look great in all the photos and videos that you'll be showing off to friends and family when you get back!

First things first. Take your destination into consideration when planning your honeymoon wardrobe. If you're off to some European city for a fulfilling cultural experience, pack chic separates like trousers, jeans and tops that you can easily mix and match. A little black dress for romantic dinners is also a must.

Going on a cruise? Then, do observe dress codes on board. Some cruises require formal wear (read: a gown for you, a tuxedo for him) for dinner at the captain's table. You'll also need cool, comfy and casual attire for touring whenever the ship docks. And your sexy swimsuit will come in handy for lounging around the poolside during those lazy days at sea.

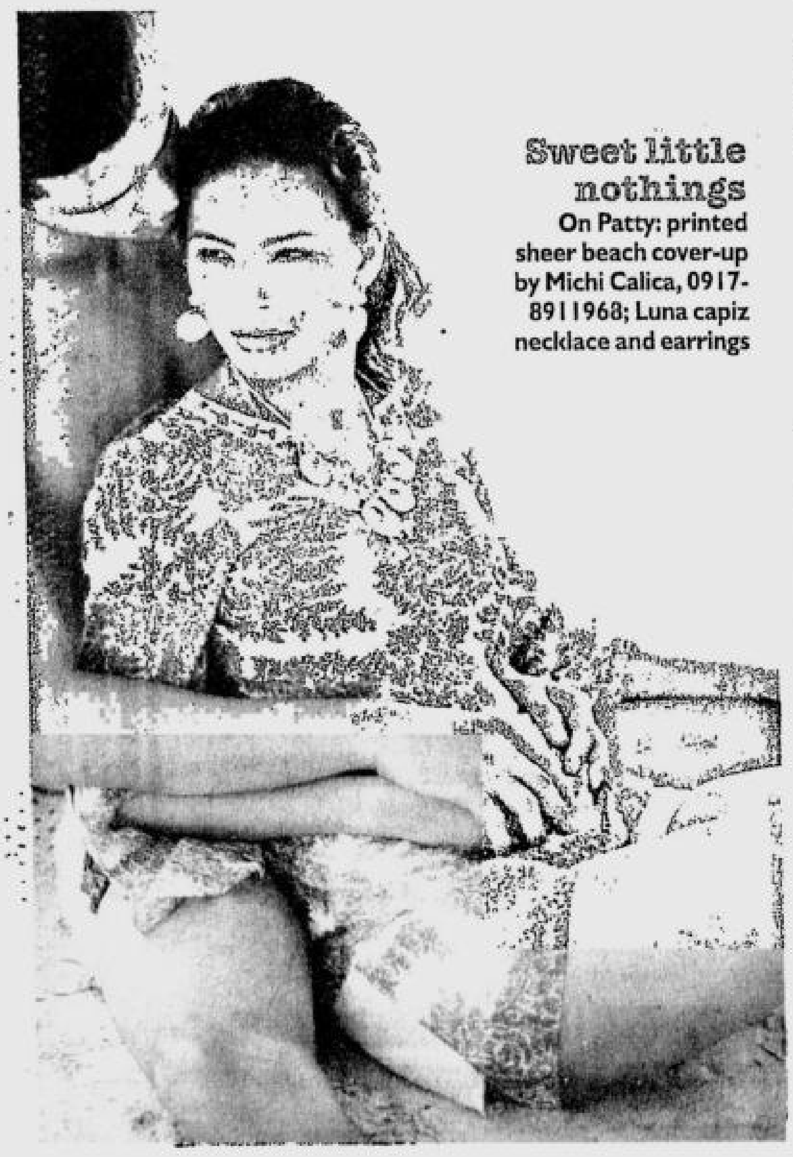
If you're headed to some exotic tropical paradise, then dress in summery pieces that are ultra-feminine and fashionable. Little dresses in colorful prints are your best bets. Wear them to the beach as a cover-up during the day, or when dining under the stars in a remote little isle.

Take your cue from this nifty editorial shot in the beautiful island of Boracay. And remember to bask in the glow of your own private universe in pretty little numbers that spell honeymoon heaven.

Photography Pat Dy
Styling Bianca Consunji
Makeup Jigs Mayuga of L'oreal Paris
Models Patty Ortega and Rafael Kiefer
Shot on Location at Discovery Shores, Boracay
Special thanks to Seair and Marbee Go
of Wedding Essentials

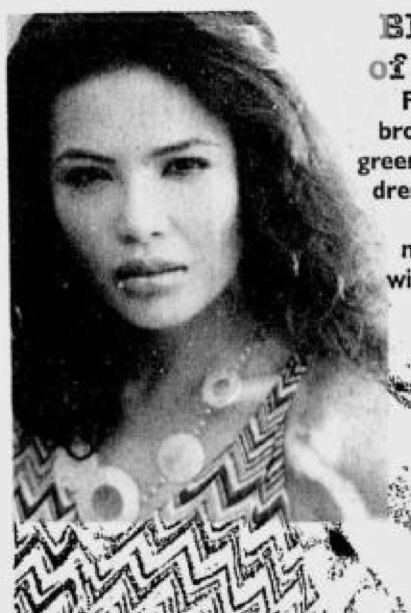
Look of love
On Patty: sheer red and cream Regatta dress with Karimadon tube dress; Luna capiz necklace; on Rafael: blue and white Regatta hibiscus shorts

Coosome twosome
On Rafael: blue and white Regatta shorts; on Patty: Freeway halter dress with pink, orange, and brown print; My Bead Shop beaded bracelet; Luna necklace with circle pendant



Sweet little nothings
On Patty: printed sheer beach cover-up by Michi Calica, 0917-8911968; Luna capiz necklace and earrings

Pretty as a picture
Floral floor-length dress by Michi Calica, 0917-8911968



Blush of love
Freeway brown and green zigzag dress; Luna capiz necklace with pearl accent

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Gee, great fashion

WHAT IS KNOWN AS G2000 IN HONG KONG is now in the Philippines under the name GII (pronounced "G-two").

A specialty clothing chain distributing career wear for both men and women, GII in Manila is affiliated with Cinderella Marketing Corp., the same company that brought GII sister company U2 to the country.

The first GII store is now open at the new Ayala mall Trinoma. All lines, namely GII Black (formal men's and women's wear), GII Pink (informal women's wear) and GII Blù (formerly U2, casual men's and women's wear), are consolidated in one store.

GII offers highly versatile coordinating pieces and refined separates perfect for career wardrobe and relaxed occasions. The brand presents European cuts and designs but caters to clothing sizes suitable for Asian consumers.

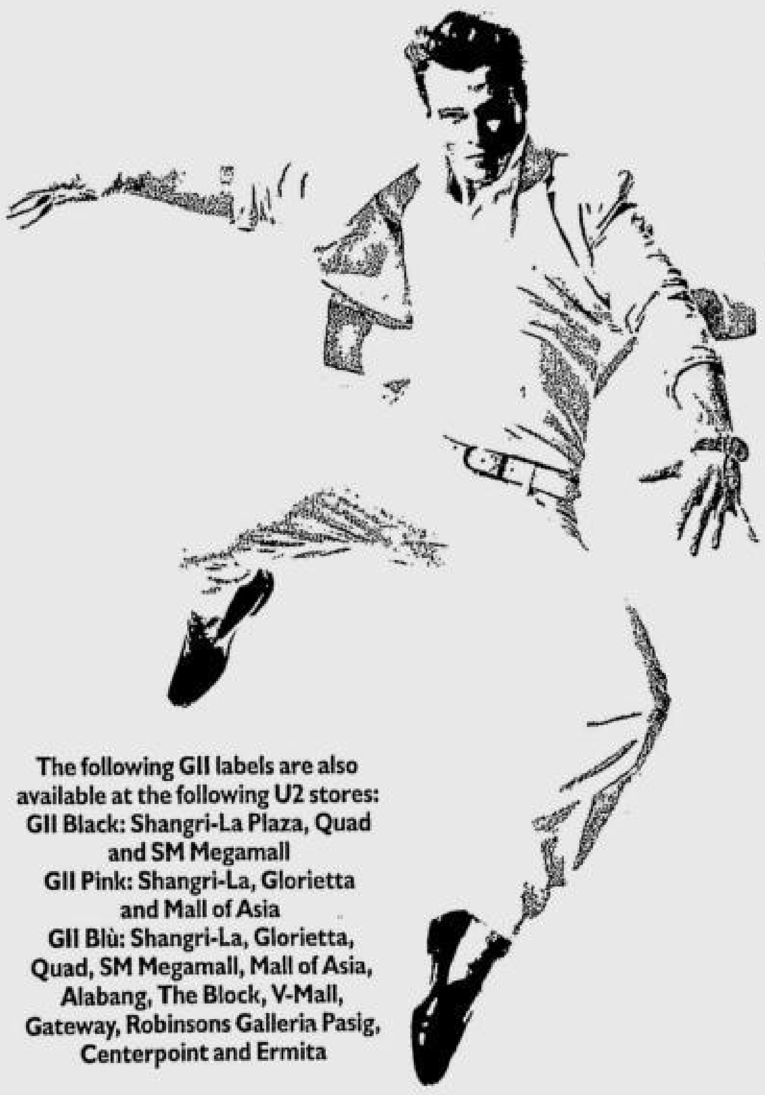
Harvard-educated Michael Tien founded the GII Group in 1980. He had worked in one of America's largest department stores for five years before starting his own company in Hong Kong.

After distributing American brand jeans during its first five years, his company went into marketing its own designs and products that cater to Asian men and women under its own labels in HK—G2000 (Generation 2000) which was introduced in 1995 and U2 the following year.

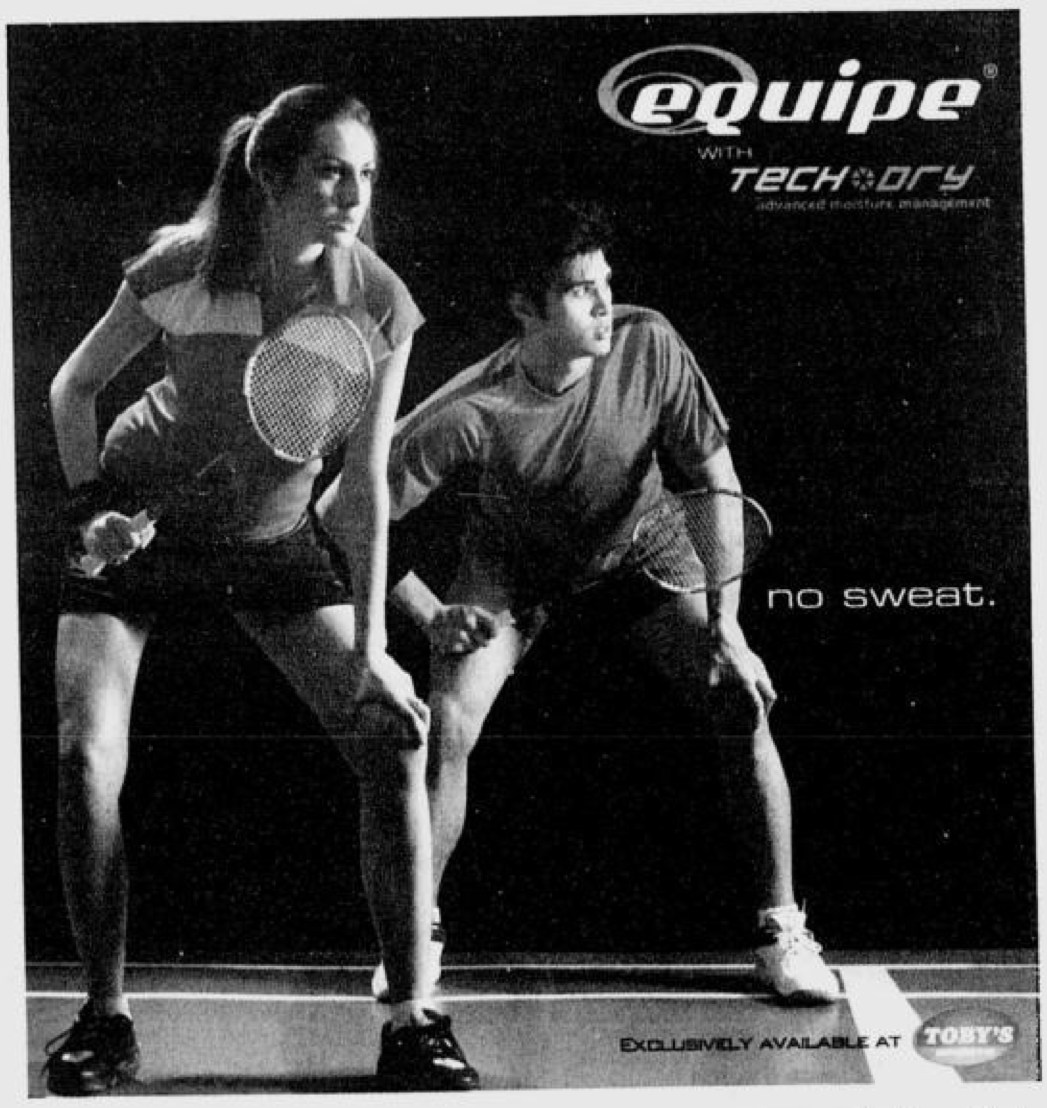
In 10 years, GII has established over 800 outlets in Asia located in Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and countries in the Middle East such as Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

GII is located at the third level in Trinoma.

HONG KONG brand G2000, now in the Philippines under the name GII (pronounced "G-two"), has opened its first store in Trinoma, offering highly versatile coordinating pieces and refined separates.



The following GII labels are also available at the following U2 stores:
GII Black: Shangri-La Plaza, Quad and SM Megamall
GII Pink: Shangri-La, Glorietta and Mall of Asia
GII Blù: Shangri-La, Glorietta, Quad, SM Megamall, Mall of Asia, Alabang, The Block, V-Mall, Gateway, Robinsons Galleria Pasig, Centerpoint and Ermita



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Mod world

Groove is in the heart

Jenni Epperson

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING in the tea, luv, for it seems that all things British are becoming the rage these days.

The invasion is all over the buzz lines and the blogosphere: there's Beckham and Posh's move to Hollywood, Princess Di's 10th year anniversary, Helen Mirren's Oscar, Harry Potter's final book, Kate Moss'. indestructible fashion-forward career.

In the ever-changing, time-warping seesaw of fashion, trends come and go and come back again. That's the case for that alarmingly cool British trend that's getting a third incarnation. I'm talking about Mod. I'm just mad for Mod! And for a good number of reasons.

Mod takes its name from "Modernism," a subculture that started out in London, characterized by slim-cut Italian suits, jazz and rhythm and blues, plus an all-night social life (spawning the term "Swinging Sixties").

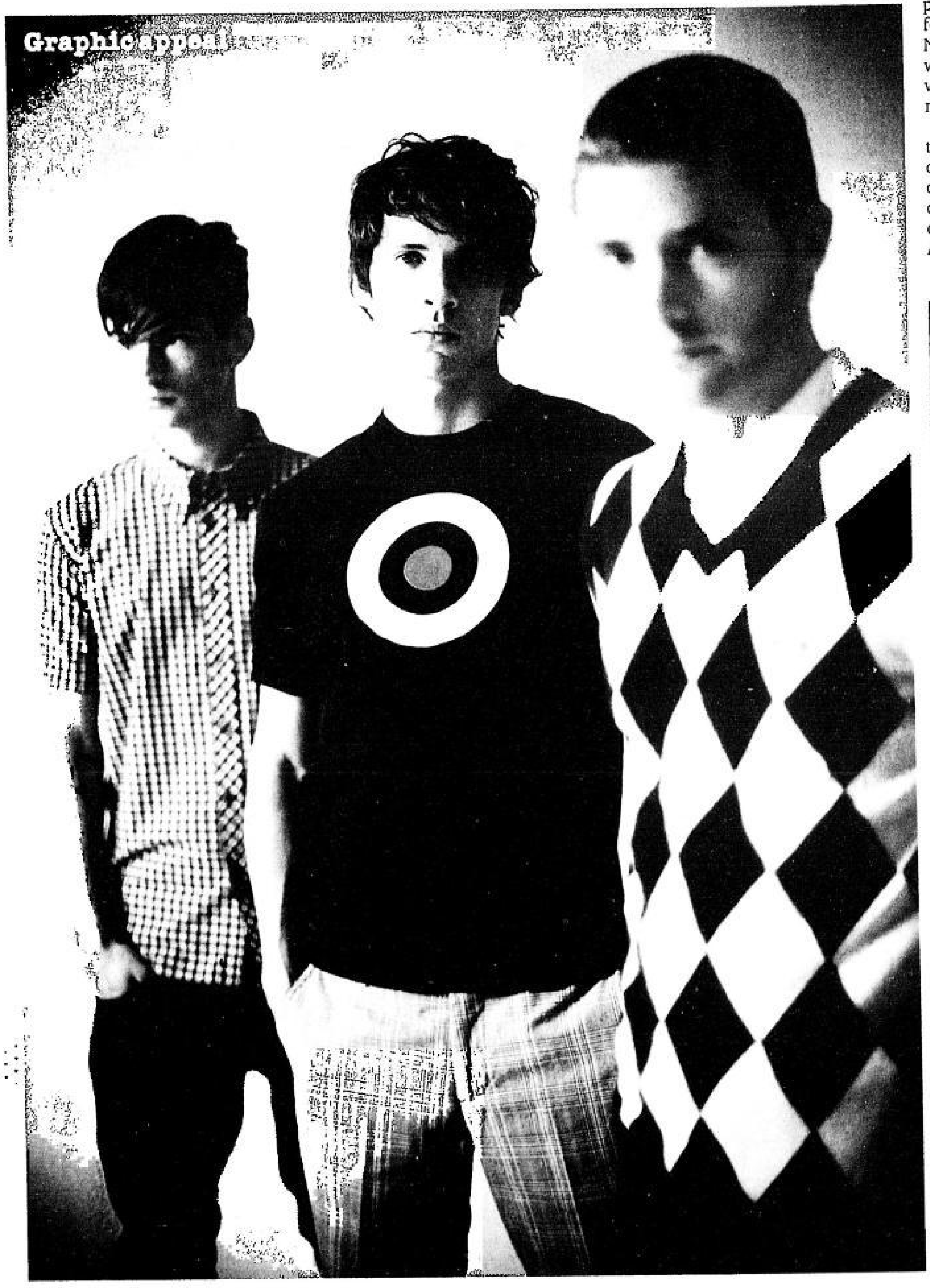
Mods were obsessed with new fashions, and were rivals with another subculture at the time, the rockers. Eventually Mod's definition expanded beyond jazz to include other fashion and lifestyle elements, such as continental style and pop art.

Some visual pegs for Mod style: Think graphic print trapeze dresses and coiffed hairdos. Think Twiggy and her iconic doe-eyed photo with the penciled-in eyeliner. Way before she became a guest judge in America's Next Top Model, Twiggy soared to fame as the waif-ish poster child for the Mod movement, which began in the late '50s and peaked in the mid '60s.

One cannot mention Mod without mentioning Ben Sherman, the British clothing company that became known as the wardrobe of choice by several famous artists and musicians. Ben Sherman's iconic Mod Target shirt design featured the colors of the British Royal Air Force.

Step in the vibe

Graphic appeal



Modern lines

Groupie bab

We can all cheer that iconic UK brand Ben Sherman has opened a store right here in our corner of the world

In recent collections, Ben Sherman shirts have been marked by unusual and complex designs and the Carnaby-style of fitted shirts—named after Carnaby Street in London, where the disciples of Mod hung out in its rows of indie music shops and fashion and designer boutiques.

Ben Sherman was also the first clothing enterprise to introduce the Oxford button-down shirt, worn by style-conscious male Mods of that era.

But lest we begin fantasizing about getting a salary that pays in pounds in order to jet off to the UK for some shopping at Ben Sherman, we can all cheer that the marvelous Mod brand has opened a store right here in our corner of the world.

It's all thanks to Juan Miguel Ongsiako, the same stylish bloke who also brought Paul Smith to Manila.

The timeless style of Ben Sherman, which stretches from decade to decade, city to city, London to Manila, proves that the label is a true global classic.

Ben Shermann is located at Edsa Shangri-La Plaza, 3/F.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

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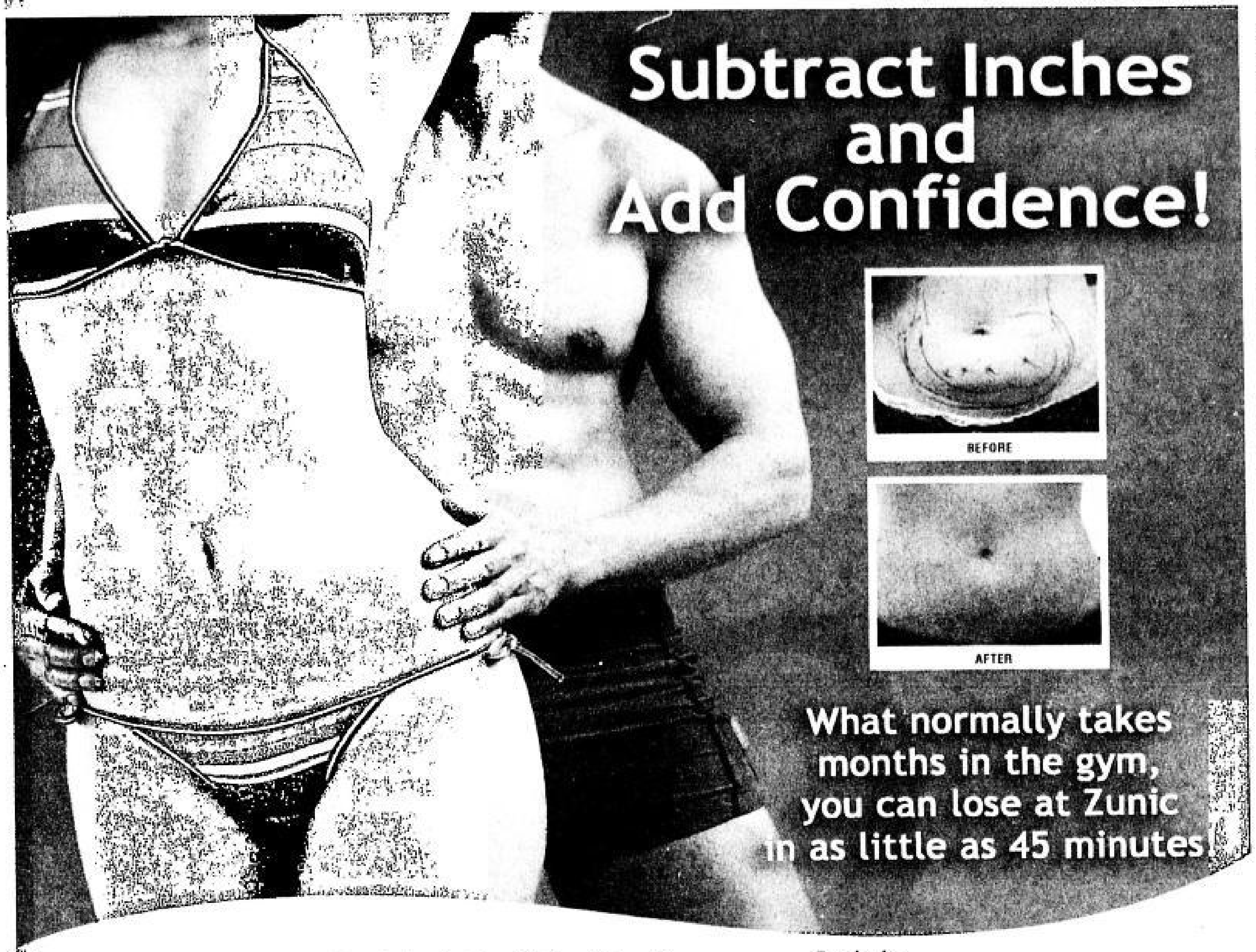
MOTOKRZR K1
MOTOKRZR K3

For more information, call us at 1-800-1651-0415 for FREE or visit our website at hellomoto.com/ph.

Promo Duration: June 15 to July 31, 2007. See Flyers and Tent Cards for more details. Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2570 series of 2007.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What normally takes months in the gym, you can lose at Zunic in as little as 45 minutes!

Zunic's Slimming and Body Sculpting Method™ melts away unsightly body fat without surgery, diet, pills or exercise. The dissolved fat is naturally flushed out by the body, which means zero recovery time.

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Fight weight gain by optimizing your body's metabolism! Get 5 FREE Metabolique treatments when you enroll on or before June 30, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2462 Series of 2007

Call 752-0600 or 374-0600 for a FREE personal consultation. Open Mon-Sun, 8am-8pm.

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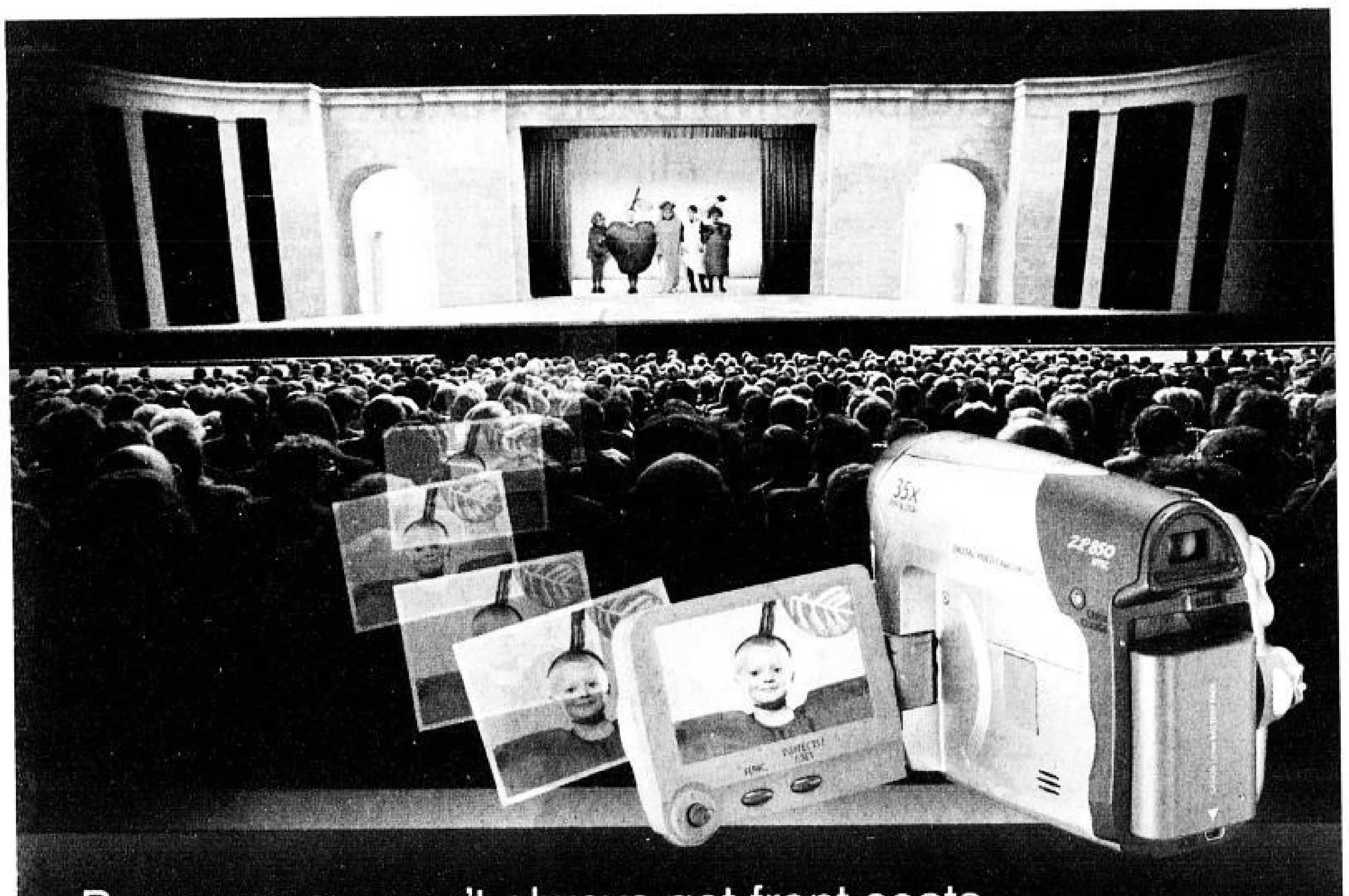
PhotoDV FORM & FUNCTION PERFECTED

Canon Delighting You Always


Because you can't always get front seats.

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- 16:9 widescreen LCD
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- Easy Joystick Operation
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- DIGIC DV

Canon ZR 830
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- 1000x digital zoom
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- Built-in lens cap
- Quick Start Function
- Easy Joystick Operation
- Simultaneous Photo and Video Recording
- SD Card Slot
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· Easy to operate. With Easy Mode, joystick control and new Quick Start function.

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DIEGO della Valle with chic, well-heeled guests

FASHION BUZZ
Hot, haute, hot news!

DEREK Lam prepares for the Tod's autumn-winter '07 presentation.

On the Lam!

TOKYO—DIEGO DELLA VALLE received the Asian Press at an exclusive dinner held at Tod's Omotesando Avenue building to celebrate "The luxury world of Tod's" and to introduce Derek Lam, Tod's new Creative Director to Asia.

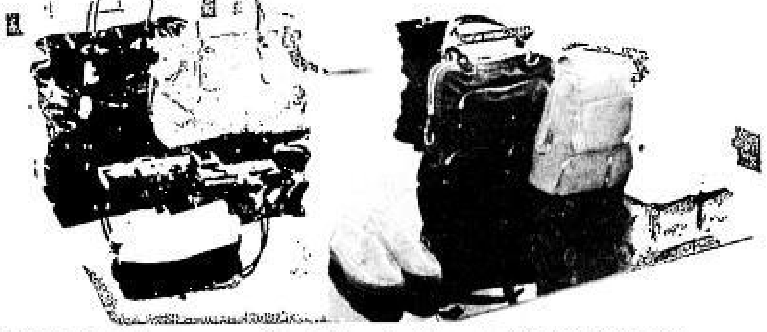
Lam was introduced to Asia for the first time following his appointment as Creative Director for the brand last Autumn. Della Valle finds Lam well suited for the job due to "his ability to join the luxury and quality inherent to Tod's with his own contemporary style."

The setting for the entire evening was Tod's Omotesando building, which was inaugurated in December 2004. The building is the result of Toyo Ito's contemporary and avant-garde architectural vision, which is in perfect harmony with the brand's philosophy that embraces tradition, quality and impeccable taste.

The evening opened with an exclusive cocktail which was held in the boutique, followed by a private dinner in the building's penthouse, where guests enjoyed breathtaking views of Tokyo's cityscape.

To further celebrate Lam's appointment, the Fall/Winter 2007-2008 press presentation was held in Tod's Omotesando building the day after the exclusive dinner. Chic, sophisticated and urban, the new Tod's collection by Lam is inspired by the metropolitan and cosmopolitan woman. Elegant and minimal silhouettes, the finest materials and handsome craftsmanship come together to create perfect pieces for the woman who lives her life to her fullest without ever foregoing her sense of style.

In the Philippines, Tod's shoes, bags, and accessories are exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. and are available at the boutique located in Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.



THE TOD'S autumn-winter '07 collection marries the brand's inherent luxury and quality with Derek Lam's contemporary style.

Sporty spice

FREEWAY MAKES A FRESH take on sports style. Tanks and tunics are made up of comfy stretch fabrics: sporty hemline details, bright hues and shimmer.

Tent shape tops are in season. They can mix with pants of different shapes and lengths. Shorts are still in: Go bubbled and cuffed in bright, dramatic colors.

Freeway will hold its mid-year sale starting July 1. Discounts are from 50-70 percent or visit www.freeway.net.ph for the sale schedule of all Freeway branches nationwide.

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Trailblazing designer and lifestyle visionary

TONIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 13 years, **Auggie Cordero** presents a full collection in the Samsung Metrowear at the Peninsula. The collection consists of more than 50 evening wear, bridal gowns, cocktail dresses and a few day wear.

This is a milestone in the illustrious career of Cordero who works to keep a low profile, even as his atelier gets a fill of Manila's A-list clientele.

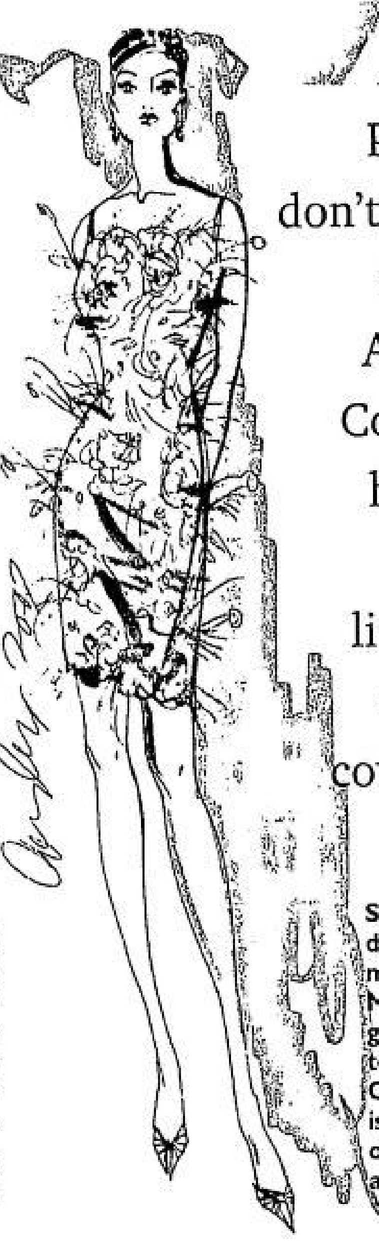
Presented with Metro Society, the gala also marks Samsung's elevation from just an electronics brand to one that stands for quality design and craftsmanship.

It's amazing how, through the ups and downs of the fashion trade, Auggie's career has become more lucrative, thanks to sheer reinvention—but done below the media radar.

Note the trailblazing stages of his career: in the '70s and '80s, along with other fashion stalwarts (the late **Joe Salazar, Inno Sotto, Gang Gomez,** who later joined the Benedictines, **Mike de la Rosa, Larrie Silva, Rusty Lopez, Lulu Tan Gan, Cesar Gaupo**), he was the country's trendsetter. He loved to put a neat bow on his peter pan collar and soon, that bow became a Cordero trademark.

Cordero's Chanel-inspired suits with black trimmings became the power dressing of corporate women.

After the 1986 Edsa Revolution, when Manila's social scene vanished because there were no more Blue Ladies to hold parties and thus the designers' made-to-order businesses plummeted, Auggie discovered the wedding gown market. Brides flocked to his shop because with him, a bride got a one-stop shop of advice and suppliers; he mentored them on style, from wedding invitations to floral arrangements to giveaways. He became the local **Martha Stewart** because by then, the emerging Martha Stewart was already his bible.



SKETCH of a design for the much-awaited Metrowear gala collection tonight. Cordero is a master of construction and silhouette.

> People don't know it, but Auggie Cordero helped shape lifestyle media coverage

Given his feel'of media and fashion trends and his pulse of the lifestyle market, Auggie's has never missed a beat. Having been his friend for more than 20 years now, I don't remember his career having a lull. His discipline in his craft is classic, his diligence even more so.

His regimen is fixed. He gets up at noon, goes to his shop in the afternoon where he designs for clients and supervises a mezzanine-full of cutters and seamstresses, goes home at 8 p.m. to take a nap, then turns on the TV for "Jeopardy" (he's hooked on it), has dinner alone or with close friends, then goes back to his DVDs, cable, magazines and books until five or six in the morning the next day. He designs at night as all these media are on or around him. He keeps on learning.

What people don't know is that the country—or the Philippine fashion media at least—owes the development of lifestyle coverage partly to Auggie. When we were starting out in the newsroom, doing the "soft sections," it was Auggie who, thanks to his voracious reading, kept on telling us that fashion could be an exciting—and legitimate—coverage. He urged us to turn it into a regular beat—and thus a regular page—because, as he said then, "You won't know it now, but in the future your paper's ads will come from fashion brands."

That was bull's eye. His foresight was accurate. He said the same thing about lifestyle long before the word was coined—how people would want to read stuff other than politics and killings. He told me what the women clientele who went to his shop would tell

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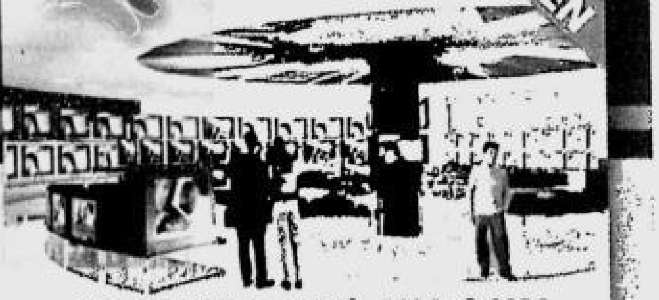
SOON TO OPEN



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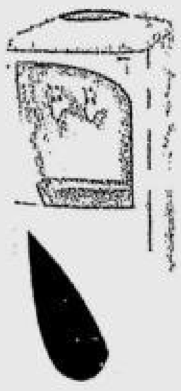
JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY

FREE
Free Glass Ware Set

YLRS3-6D
Water Dispenser
- (Hot & Cold w/ Sterilizing Cabinet)

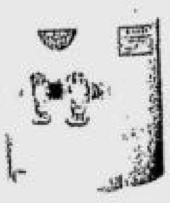
SRP: P5,690
P474.17
12 mos. 0%



FREE
Umbrella
(for YRT5 & YLRS2-5V only)

YLRS2-5V
Water Dispenser
- (Hot & Cold w/ Storage Cabinet)

SRP: 4,750
P395.83
12 mos. 0%



YRT5
Water Dispenser
- (Hot & Normal)

P820

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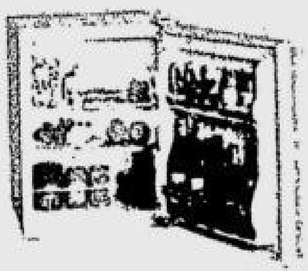
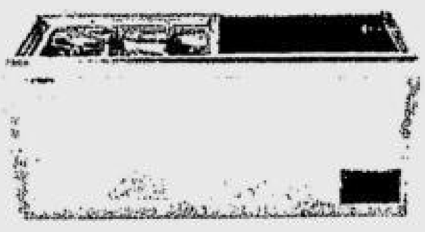
GERMAN QUALITY

FREE
Umbrella
With every HAIER Ref or Chest Freezer

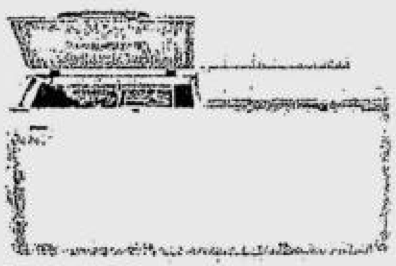


BC76 (3.0 cu. ft.)
Personal Ref
SRP: 7,500
P625.00
12 mos. 0%

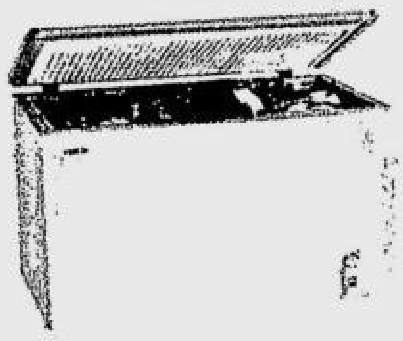
BD-478 (17.0 cu. ft.) Chest Freezer
SRP: 22,200
P1,850.00
12 mos. 0%



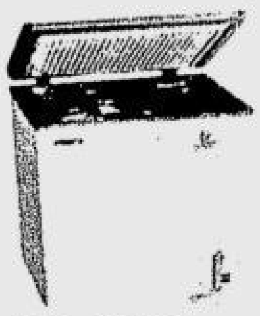
SD-309 (11.0 cu. ft.) Chest Freezer
SRP: 22,800
P1,900.00
12 mos. 0%



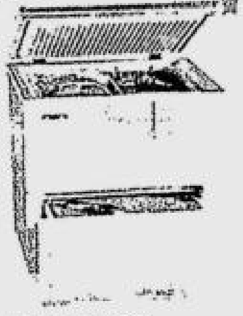
BD-518 (20.0 cu. ft.) Chest Freezer
Double Hardlid Door Design
SRP: 26,100
P2,175.00
12 mos. 0%



BD-206G
(7.0 cu. ft.) Chest Freezer
SRP: 13,300
P1,108.33
12 mos. 0%



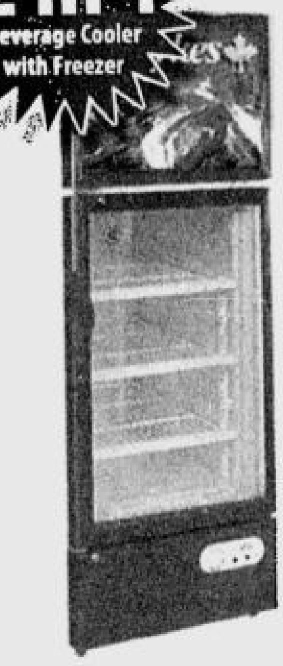
BD-106G
(3.5 cu. ft.) Chest Freezer
SRP: 10,000
P833.33
12 mos. 0%



LW-150
(5.0 cu. ft.) Chest Freezer
SRP: 14,300
P1,191.67
12 mos. 0%

Markes
OF CANADA

Introducing
2 in 1
Beverage Cooler with Freezer



MSRF-273B / MSRF-273R
- Beverage cooler w/ freezer
- 9.5 cu.ft. Capacity

SRP: 19,400
P3,233.34
6 mos. 0%

MSR-230
- Beverage cooler
- 8 cu.ft. Capacity

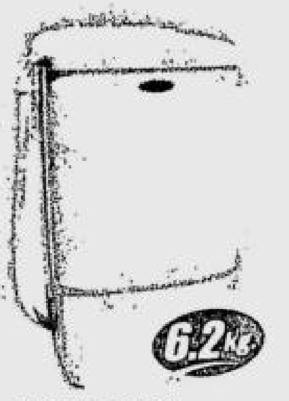
SRP: 20,400
P1,700.00
12 mos. 0%

FREE
Umbrella

MWM-550S
(5.5kg Washer)
SRP: 3,100
P516.67
6 mos. 0%

EÜROTEK

FREE BODY BAG
With every purchase of a EUROTEK Washing Machine

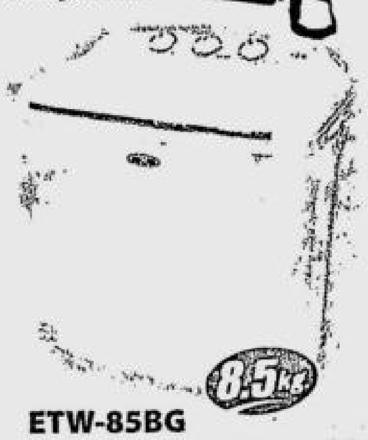


6.2kg

EWM-62W
- Big wash tub
- Plastic body
- Anti-rat base design

6.5kg

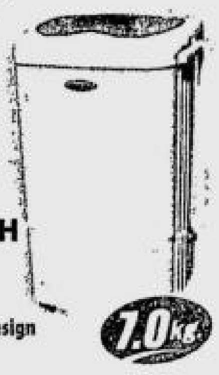
ETW-65BG
- Double wall wash tub
- Twin water fall
- Plastic body
- Anti-rat base design



8.5kg

ETW-85BG
- Double wall wash tub
- Twin water fall
- Plastic body
- Anti-rat base design

FREE
SPORT CAP



ESD-70WH
Spin Dryer
- Big spin tub
- Plastic body
- Anti-rat base design

7.0kg

FREE
SPORT BAG

EUF-756
Upright Freezer
- Fast freeze function
- Safety key lock

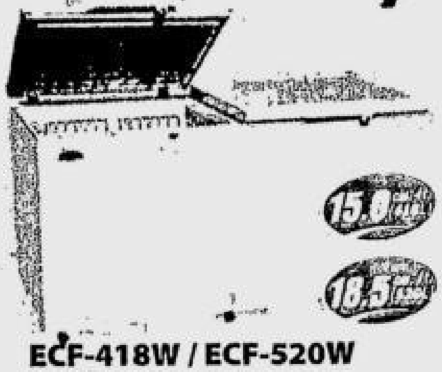
7.5

FREE
COOLER BAG

EPR-90MS
Personal Ref
- Metallic silver finish
- Semi-auto defrost
- Durable top table
- Adjustable wire shelves

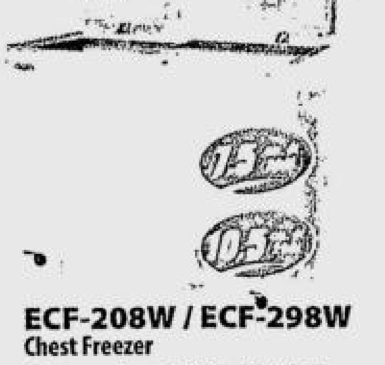
3.2

FREE KNAP SACK
With every purchase of a EUROTEK Chest Freezer



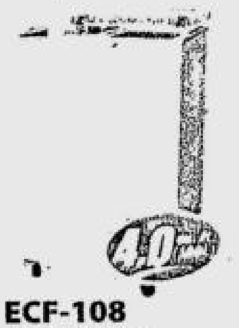
15.0
18.5

ECF-418W / ECF-520W
Chest Freezer
Two door available in 15.0 & 18.5 cu. ft. models



7.5
10.5

ECF-208W / ECF-298W
Chest Freezer
- Top open door w/ sliding glass door
- Interior light
- available in 7.5 & 10.5 cu. ft. models

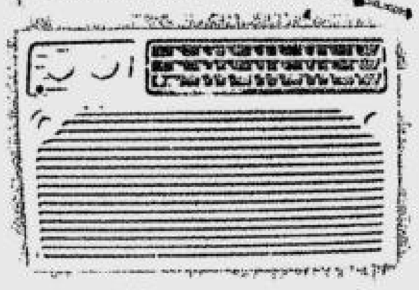


4.0

ECF-108
Chest Freezer
- Top open door w/ sliding glass door
- Interior light
- Double wire basket

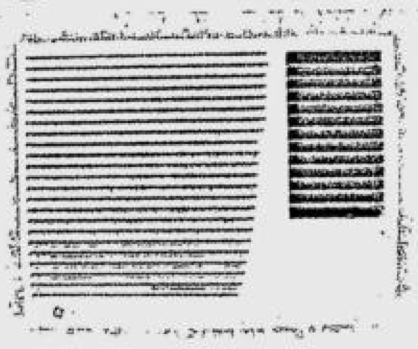
GE Appliances

FREE
16" Stand Fan
For all Window Type Aircon



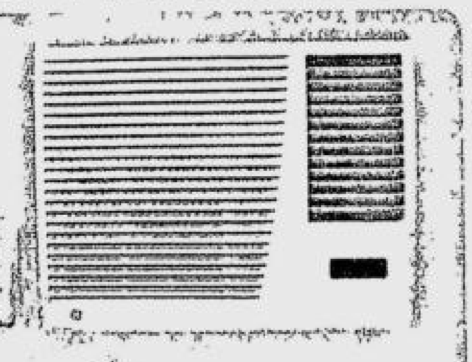
AEV05KB
- 0.65 HP Manual Control
- Cooling Capacity: 6,400kJ/h
- Floor Area: 12m²
- EER: 10

SRP: P8,395
P1,399.17
6 mos. 0%



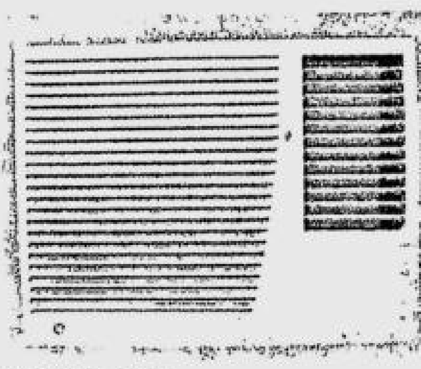
AEV07KB
- 0.75 HP Manual Control
- Cooling Capacity: 7,400kJ/h
- Floor Area: 14m²
- EER: 10.3

SRP: P12,395
P2,065.83
6 mos. 0%



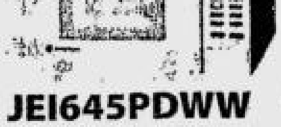
AEE09KB
- 1 HP Remote Control
- Cooling Capacity: 9,500kJ/h
- Floor Area: 18m²
- EER: 10.2

SRP: P14,995
P2,499.17
6 mos. 0%



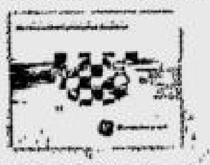
AEV12KB
- 1.5 HP Manual Control
- Cooling Capacity: 13,000kJ/h
- Floor Area: 24m²
- EER: 10

SRP: P16,195
P2,699.17
6 mos. 0%



JEI645PDWW
.6 cu.ft.(17L), Digital Control
SRP: P4,495
P749.17
6 mos. 0%

FREE
COOKBOOK
For every purchase of GE Microwave Oven



JEI884PESS .8 cu.ft.(23L)
Digital Combination Microwave & Griller Oven Stainless Steel
SRP: P8,695
P1,449.17
6 mos. 0%

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Flat Color TV

FREE TV Rack + Coffee Maker

FX series

TC-29FX30P [MTS] 29" [73.66cm]
- Twin Digital Combo Filter
- Picture Noise Reduction
- Super VM

SRP: P21,999
P1,833.25
12 mos. 0%

TC-29FX20P [AV STEREO] 29" [73.66cm]
- Twin Digital Combo Filter
- Picture Noise Reduction
- Super VM

SRP: P19,999
P1,666.58
12 mos. 0%

FX series

TC-21FX30P [MTS] 21" [53.34cm]
- Picture Noise Reduction
- 5-Band Equalizer
- Virtual Hyper Bass (VHB)

SRP: P10,699
P891.58
12 mos. 0%

TC-21FX20P [AV STEREO] 21" [53.34cm]
- Picture Noise Reduction
- 5-Band Equalizer
- Virtual Hyper Bass (VHB)

SRP: P9,699
P808.25
12 mos. 0%

TC-21FX10P [MONO] 21" [53.34cm]
- Picture Noise Reduction
- Taglish On-Screen Display
- Closed Caption Decoder

SRP: P9,199
P766.58
12 mos. 0%

DVD Mini HiFi System

SC-VK650
- 3000W PMPO • Multi Format Playback including Divx • 5-Disc changer

SRP: P16,499
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SC-VK450
- 2000W PMPO • Multi Format Playback including Divx • 5-Disc changer

SRP: P12,999
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Digital Video Camera

PV-GS81
MiniDV Camcorder
- 1CCD Camera System
- 32x Optical Zoom
- Mini DV Tape Recording Format
- 2.7" Wide LCD

NOW: **P20,999**
FREE Tripod + Bag + DVC Tape
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PV-GS85
MiniDV Camcorder
- 3CCD Camera System
- 3.1 Mega Still Picture Recording
- 10x Optical Zoom
- 2.7" Wide LCD

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NV-GS320
MiniDV Camcorder
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NOW: **P39,999**
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VDR-D200
Digital Video Camera
- 5.0 Megapixel • DVD-RAM / DVD-R / DVD-RW • 30x Optical Zoom • 2.5" LCD Monitor

BEFORE: P47,999
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SAVE: P12,000
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FREE DVD-SI
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24 mos. 0%

Digital Still Camera

DMC-LS70
Digital Still Camera
- 7.2 Megapixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- 27MB Built-in Memory
- 2.0" LCD Monitor

NOW: **P10,999**
FREE 512MB SD Card
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DMC-LS75
Digital Still Camera
- 7.2 Megapixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- 27MB Built-in Memory
- 2.5" LCD Monitor

NOW: **P12,999**
FREE 512MB SD Card
P1,083.25
12 mos. 0%

DMC-FX10
Digital Still Camera
- 6.0 Megapixel • 3x Optical Zoom • 27MB Built-in Memory • 2.5" LCD Monitor

NOW: **P16,999**
FREE Camera Pouch + 512MB SD Card
P1,416.58
12 mos. 0%

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Digital Still Camera
- 7.2 Megapixel • 6x Optical Zoom • 27MB Built-in Memory • 2.5" LCD Monitor

NOW: **P17,999**
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P1,499.92
12 mos. 0%

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Digital Still Camera
- 7.2 Megapixel • 3.6x Optical Zoom • 27MB Built-in Memory • 2.5" LCD Monitor

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NOW: **P24,999**
SAVE: P1,000
FREE Camera Pouch + 512MB SD Card
P1,041.62
24 mos. 0%

DMC-FX50
Digital Still Camera
- 7.2 Megapixel • 3.6x Optical Zoom • 27MB Built-in Memory • 3.0" LCD Monitor

NOW: **P27,999**
FREE Camera Pouch + 512MB SD Card
P2,333.25
12 mos. 0%

WINDOW-TYPE AIRCON
• Super Alleru-Buster Filter

FREE Decorative Frame + Mug Set

FREE Coffee Maker OR 12" Desk Fan

With Decorative Frame
• 12 Hour ON/OFF Timer

CW-C102VPH [1.0 HP]
SRP: P15,999
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12 mos. 0%

CW-C122VPH [1.5 HP]
SRP: P17,999
P1,499.92
12 mos. 0%

DELUXE
- • 12 Hour ON/OFF Timer
- •• 12 Hour OFF Timer

MODEL	Cooling Capacity (kJ/h)	Floor Area (m²)	Power Input (W)	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P	12 Months 0%
• CW-XC83JPH	7,420 [0.8 HP]	11-14	645	11.5	P14,499	P1,208.25
• CW-XC93JPH	9,500 [1.0 HP]	15-18	900	10.6	P16,799	P1,399.92
• CW-XC103VPH	11,000 [1.0 HP]	15-21	940	11.7	P17,899	P1,491.58
• CW-XC123VPH	13,000 [1.5 HP]	22-25	1,210	10.7	P19,999	P1,666.58
•• CW-XC183EPH	19,900 [2.0 HP]	26-36	1,890	10.5	P24,199	P2,016.58
•• CW-XC243EPH	25,500 [2.5 HP]	37-48	2,660	9.6	P27,299	P2,274.92

DELUXE
- • 12 Hour ON/OFF Timer

MODEL	H.P.	Floor Area (m2)	Power Input (W)	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P.	12 Months 0%
CW-C63JPH	5,500 [0.6 HP	<10.5	500	11.0	P10,199	P 849.92
CW-C83JPH	7,420 [0.8 HP	11-14	645	11.5	P13,999	P1,166.58
CW-C103VPH	11,000 [1.0 HP	15-21	940	11.7	P16,799	P1,399.92
CW-C123VPH	13,000 [1.5 HP	22-25	1,210	10.7	P18,899	P1,574.92

STANDARD

MODEL	H.P.	Floor Area (m2)	Power Input (W)	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P.	12 Months 0%
CW-SC63JPH	5,550 [0.6 HP]	<10.5	500	11.0	P 9,199	P 766.58
CW-SC83JPH	7,420 [0.8 HP]	11-14	645	11.5	P13,499	P1,124.92
CW-SC93JPH	9,500 [1.0 HP]	15-18	900	10.6	P14,199	P1,183.25
CW-SC103VPH	11,000 [1.0 HP]	15-21	940	11.7	P15,299	P1,274.92
CW-SC123VPH	13,000 [1.5 HP]	22-25	1,210	10.7	P17,899	P1,491.58
CW-SC183EPH	19,900 [2.0 HP]	26-36	1,890	10.5	P22,599	P1,883.25
CW-SC243EPH	25,500 [2.5 HP]	37-48	2,660	9.6	P25,199	P2,099.92

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FREE Installation Package (1st 10ft copper tubing) + Sports Bag Set

AC Robot

COOL PICK 1
CS/CU-XC12EKQ
12,890 [1.50 HP]
SAVE P12,504
BEFORE: P42,999
NOW: **P30,495**
P2,541.25
12 mos. 0%

SUPER DELUXE

COOL PICK 2
CS/CU-XC9EKQ
9,940 [1.00 HP]
SAVE P8,100
BEFORE: P35,999
NOW: **P27,899**
P2,324.97
12 mos. 0%

INVERTER DELUXE
- INVERTER Technology
- e-ion Air Purifying System

INVERTER

MODEL	Cooling Capacity (kJ/h)	Floor Area (m²)	Power Input (W)	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P.	12 Months 0%
CS/CU-S12GKQ	11,630 [1.50 HP]	22 & below	855	13.6	P36,499	P3,041.58
CS/CU-S15GKQ	15,840 [1.75 HP]	30 & below	1,270	12.5	P42,399	P3,533.25

DELUXE
- e-ion Air Purifying System
- Patrol Sensor

MODEL	Cooling Capacity (kJ/h)	Floor Area (m2)	Power Input (W)	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P.	12 Months 0%
CS/CU-C9GKQ	9,540 [1.0 HP]	15-18	830	11.5	P27,899	P2,324.92
CS/CU-C12GKQ	12,780 [1.5 HP]	19-24	1,150	11.1	P30,499	P2,541.58
CS/CU-C18GKQ	19,080 [2.0 HP]	25-36	1,730	11.0	P38,499	P3,208.25
CS/CU-C24GKQ	25,310 [2.5 HP]	37-48	2,580	9.8	P42,899	P3,574.92

STANDARD
- 24-Hr ON/OFF Real Setting Timer

MODEL	Cooling Capacity (kJ/h)	Floor Area (m2)	Power Input (W)	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P.	12 Months 0%
CS/CU-PC9EKQ	9,540 [1.0 HP]	15-18	860	11.1	P22,999	P1,916.58
CS/CU-PC12EKQ	12,740 [1.5 HP]	19-24	1,240	10.3	P26,299	P2,191.58
CS/CU-PC18DKQ	18,800 [2.0 HP]	25-36	1,880	10.0	P34,699	P2,891.58
CS/CU-PC24DKQ	25,310 [2.5 HP]	37-48	2,820	9.0	P38,999	P3,249.92

Ref & Freezer

FREE Gas Stove (Except NR-A303DP)

NR-A303DP
Personal Refrigerator
- 3 cu.ft. (85L)
- Manual Defrost System
- Frozen Food Storage Volume: 9.3 liters
- Fresh Food Storage Volume: 75.7 liters

SRP: P7,499
P624.92
12 mos. 0%

SINGLE DOOR
Titanium Grey / Snowy White

NR-A605EC
- 6 cu.ft. (187L)
- Semi Auto Defrost System
- Frost Free Fan Cooling System

SRP: P9,999
P833.25
12 mos. 0%

FROST FREE
Titanium Grey / Snowy White

NR-B705AC
- 7 cu.ft. (213L)
- Fully Automatic Defrost System
- Frost Free Fan Cooling System

SRP: P15,799
P1,316.58
12 mos. 0%

TWO DOOR
Snowy White / Titanium Grey / Metallic Blue

NR-B705DC
- 7 cu.ft. (206L)
- Semi-automatic Defrost System
- Anti-bacterial Water Dispenser

SRP: P14,799
P1,233.25
12 mos. 0%

TWO DOOR
Snowy White / Titanium Grey / Metallic Blue

NR-B805DC
- 8 cu.ft. (233L)
- Semi-automatic Defrost System
- Anti-bacterial Water Dispenser

SRP: P15,799
P1,316.58
12 mos. 0%

UPRIGHT FREEZER
Snowy White

NR-A805F
- 8 cu.ft. (218L)
- High Efficiency, Low Noise Compressor
- Rust Proof Inner Wall

SRP: P15,999
P1,333.25
12 mos. 0%

Washing Machine

FREE Flat Iron (Except for Single Tub)

SINGLE TUB
Avocado Shake / Powder Blue

NA-S526B
- 5.2kg Dry Wt. Capacity
- Rust Proof Body

SRP: P3,499
P583.17
6 mos. 0%

SINGLE TUB
Peach

NA-S686B
- 6.8kg Dry Wt. Capacity
- Soakmatic Function

SRP: P4,499
P749.83
6 mos. 0%

TWIN TUB
White / Avocado Shake

NA-W43R6
- 4.3kg Dry Wt. Capacity
- Big Size Pulsator

SRP: P6,199
P516.58
12 mos. 0%

TWIN TUB
White / Transparent Pomelo

NA-W55R6
- 5.5kg Dry Wt. Capacity
- Soakmatic Function

SRP: P7,199
P599.92
12 mos. 0%

Foam Wash

FULLY AUTO
Titanium Grey

NA-F70G2X
- 7.0kg Dry Wt. Capacity
- Triple Power Wave Pulsar
- Stainless Steel Tub

SRP: P14,699
P1,224.92
12 mos. 0%

Fax Machine

KX-FT931 THERMAL PAPER
- 64-Level Halftone • 10-Page Document Feeder • Navigation Key For Easy Operation • 28-Page Document Memory • Caller-ID Ready

SRP: P4,790
P798.33
6 mos. 0%

KX-FT933 THERMAL PAPER
- 64-Level Halftone • 10-Page Document Feeder • Navigation Key For Easy Operation • 28-Page Document Memory • Automatic Paper Cutter

SRP: P5,790
P965.00
6 mos. 0%

KX-FT937 THERMAL PAPER
- 64-Level Halftone • 10-Page Document Feeder • 28-Page Document Memory • Automatic Paper Cutter • Digital Speaker Phone • Digital Answering System

SRP: P6,990
P1,165.00
6 mos. 0%

KX-FP342 PLAIN PAPER
- 4-Pages/Min. Printing Speed • Enhanced Copier Function • 28-Page Document Memory • Sequential Broadcasting (20 locations)

SRP: P6,590
P1,098.33
6 mos. 0%

KX-FP362 PLAIN PAPER
- Full Digital Answering System • Digital Full-Duplex Speakerphone • 28-Page Document Memory • Voice Time/Day Stamp

SRP: P8,590
P1,431.67
6 mos. 0%

KX-FM386 PLAIN PAPER
- Fully Digital Answering System • Multi-Function System 7-in-1 • Digital Speaker Phone • 28-Page Document Memory

SRP: P9,990
P1,665.00
6 mos. 0%

Telephones

CORDLESS
available in Black / Silver

KX-TCD200
- Caller ID (50-Name & Number Call Log) • 6 Pre-set Ringer Tones on Handset • 20 Name & Number Phonebook • Frequency Range: 1.8-1.92 Mhz

P2,750

CORDLESS
available in Black / Silver

KX-TC2100
- 1-Station Direct Speed Dialer • Up to 120-hr/ 7-Hour Talk Battery Life • Handset Locator (Paging) • Wall Mountable • Frequency Range: 46-49 Mhz

P1,490

CORDLESS
available in Titanium Gray / Silver

KX-TCD300
- Stylish Communication With Full Graphic Colour Display
- Customizable Caller ID with 50 Name And Number Call Log
- Frequency Range: 1.8-1.92 Mhz

SRP: P4,890
P815.00
6 mos. 0%

CORDED
available in Black / White / Red / Gray / Dark Blue

KX-TS500MX
- Choices Of 5 Colors • Wall Mountable • Last Number Redial • Timed Flash • Electronic Volume Control

P670

CORDED

KX-T2371
- 13-Station One Touch/ Speed Dialer • Data Port Extra Phone Jack • Wall Mountable • One Touch Redial • Switchable Tone/ Pulse Settings

P1,120

CORDED

KX-T2373
- Hands-free Speakerphone • 30-Station One Touch/ Speed Dialer • Electronic Hold On Music • Call Restriction/ Dial Lock • Headset Ready/ Data Port

P1,940

WALL FAN
Body Color: Midnight Blue
F-45PWP
- 18" Rust-free Metal Blade
- Insulated Motor
- Automatic Lubrication
- Double Oscillation
- Thermal Fuse
- Easy Tilt Adjustment

P2,039

WALL FAN
Blade Color: Blue
Body Color: White
F-40WYP
- 16" Blade Diameter
- Thermal Fuse
- Automatic Lubrication
- Double Oscillation
- Easy Tilt Adjustment

P1,709

LIVING FAN
Body Color: Midnight Blue
F-45PLP
- 18" Rust-free Metal Blade
- Insulated Motor
- Automatic Lubrication
- Double Oscillation
- Thermal Fuse
- Easy Tilt Adjustment

P2,489

STAND FAN
Blade Color: Blue / Green
Body Color: White
Blade Color: Transparent Black
Body Color: Midnight Blue
F-40SWP
- 16" Blade Diameter
- Thermal Fuse
- Automatic Lubrication
- Double Oscillation
- Easy Tilt Adjustment

P2,099

STAND FAN
Blade Color: Blue / Green
Body Color: White
F-40SYP
- 16" Blade Diameter
- Thermal Fuse
- Automatic Lubrication
- Double Oscillation
- Easy Tilt Adjustment

P1,649

LIVING FAN
Blade Color: Blue / Green
Body Color: White
F-40LYP
- 16" Blade Diameter
- Thermal Fuse
- Automatic Lubrication
- Double Oscillation
- Easy Tilt Adjustment

P1,599

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645-1961/ 645-1759
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Plaza, Araneta Center, Cubao,
Quezon City
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Alabang, Muntinlupa City
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Fax: 850-3758

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Upper Ground Floor, Ever Gotesco,
Grand Central Complex,
Rizal Ave. Ext., Kalookan City
Tel: 364-5341/ 364-5383/
363 3623 Fax: 366-4502

STA. ROSA CITY, LAGUNA
2nd Floor, Target Mall, Balibago,
Sta. Rosa City, Laguna
Tel: (49) 534-3028
Fax: (02) 886-1514

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747 Rizal Avenue Extension,
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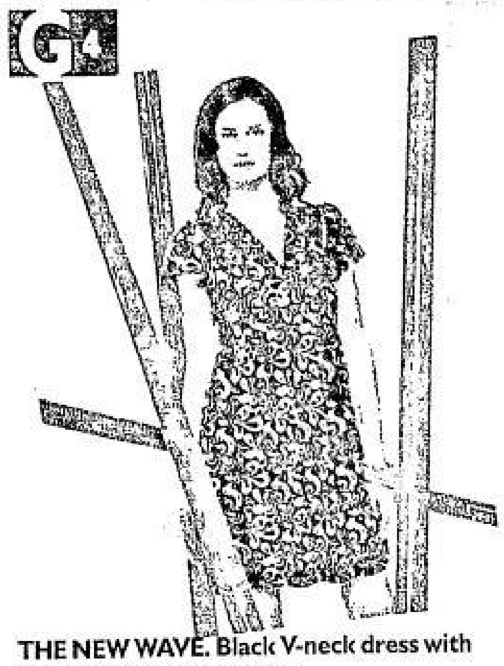
Fashion flashback



THE NEW WAVE. Black V-neck dress with red graphic flower designs

SM'S LATEST FASHION COLLECTION TAKES on a retro vibe, but with contemporary details thrown in.

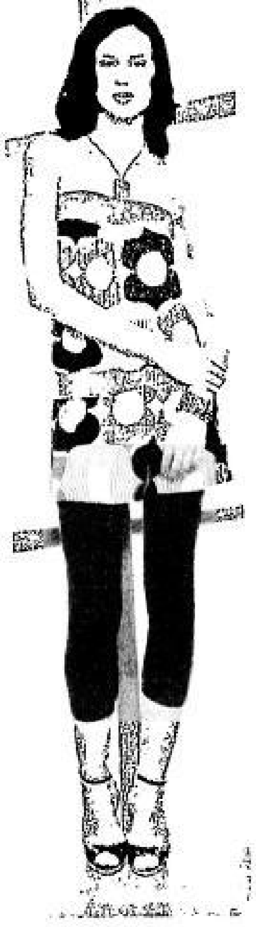
Thanks to designers such as Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, vintage clothes and retro chic have never been as popular.

Today's retro mood is a reprise of Diane von Furstenberg's iconic wrap dresses, the bubble dresses of the '80s that offered the pouf and graphic printed threads, but this time, with fresh touches for the modern woman.

The collection is available at the Ladies Wear Department of all SM stores.

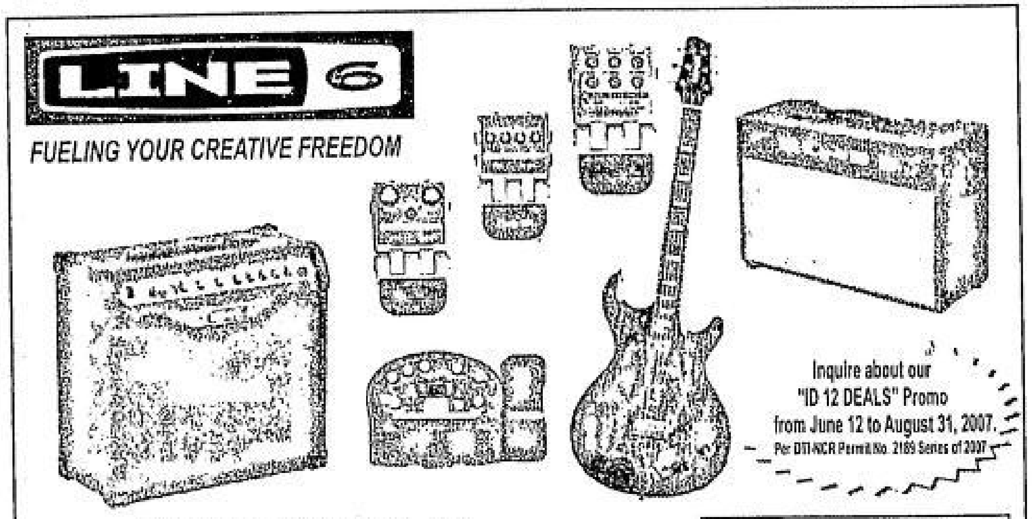
BACK FLASH. Black and white quarter sleeve polka dotted top with waist band, worn with white pants

FASHION TWIST. Puff sleeve dress with pop prints and belt accents



TOP STORY. Retro printed orange tunic tube top worn with brown leggings

PHOTOS BY ERWIN BARLETA OF EDGE OF LIGHT



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intel Core™2 Duo
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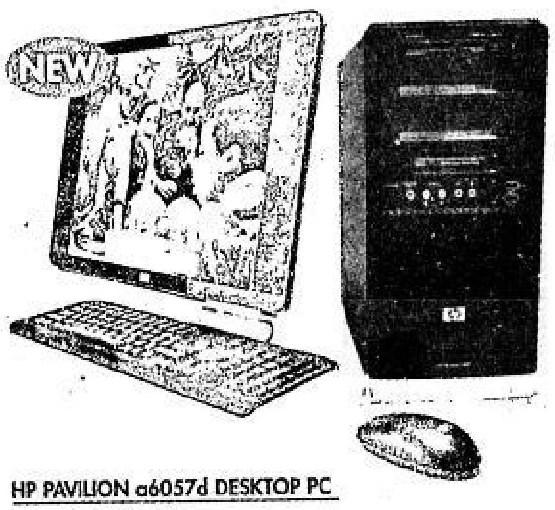
Gathering loved ones around the new HP Pavilion Home PC, powered by the Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor, is easy. The hard part is pulling them away from it – and not just because of itssmooth contours and sophisticated glossy black finish. It's been designed for families, including friendly little features like a top located, ergonomically placed power button and media card reader. Plus a nesting keyboard that reduces clutter. Best of all, it comes with Windows Vista™ Home Premium for the ultimate in home entertainment, giving your family infinite reasons to cluster around. That's not all. When you buy the HP Pavilion Home PC, it also comes with a FREE Memory Upgrade and HP Goodies Bag worth almost P5,000. So pick up the HP Pavilion Home PC today, and make family reunions an everyday affair. So stop looking and get one now! **Promo now runs from June 17 to 30, 2007 only.**

THE COMPUTER IS PERSONAL AGAIN



HP PAVILION a6057d DESKTOP PC
₱49,990
- Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor E4300*
  Includes Intel® Extended Memory 64 Technology (Intel® EM64T)
  (2MB L2 Cache, 1.80GHz, 800MHz FSB)
- Genuine Windows Vista® Home Basic'
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- 250.0 GB* 3G Serial ATA hard drive at 7200RPM
  *Gigabyte (GB) is defined as 1 billion bytes
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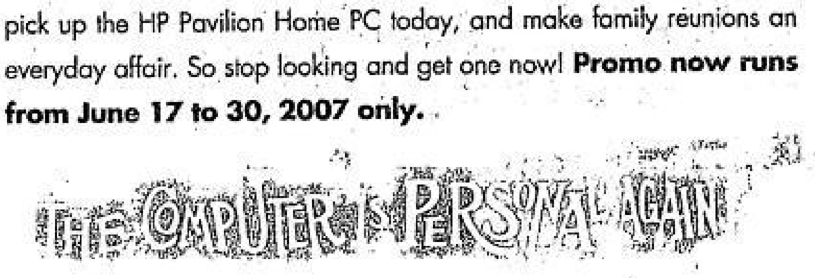
- 15-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- Comes with 43.18cm (17") LCD monitor with built-in speakers

P4,165.83 at 0%* Interest for 12 month Free HP Goodies Bag of PC Accessories worth P3,000



HP PAVILION a6045d DESKTOP PC
₱39,990
- Intel® Pentium® D Processor 925*
  Includes Intel® Extended Memory 64 Technology (Intel® EM64T)
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  *Gigabyte (GB) is defined as 1 billion bytes
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Upgrade to 43.18cm (17") LCD monitor with built-in speakers add only P1,990

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  (2x2MB L2 Cache, 3GHz, 800MHz FSB)
- Free DOS Operation
- 512MB DDR1-400
- 80 GB hard drive
- CD Writer DVD Combination 48x32x48x16 drive
- Integrated AC97 audio
- Integrated 10/100 Base-T networking interface
- Wall KB & Mouse
- Comes with 38.10cm (15") LCD monitor with built-in speakers

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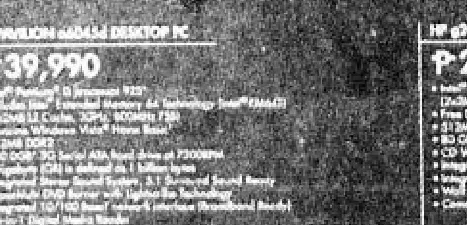

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Trailblazing designer and lifestyle visionary

From page G1

him—how they loved to read about trends, fashion, health and all.

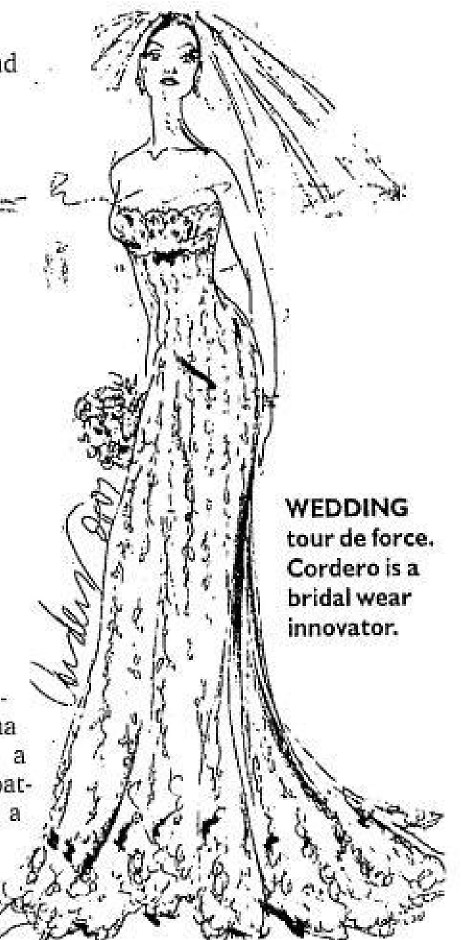
And he'd sit me down and ask me intently—"And guess who these women are? They're the wives of your advertisers who can dictate to their husbands where their ads should be. They tell their husbands what pages they read and what they like to read."

That was why he told me to stay the lifestyle course.

Auggie wasn't clairvoyant. He was just being a keen student of style, markets and media: spotting a trend, an icon (he was the first to tell me how an **Elsa Klensch** would change fashion coverage, or how Martha Stewart would turn into a brand), consumer spending pattern. (Now everybody is a "lifestyle expert.")

He was the one who told me in the early '90s that the glossies would be the next big thing, and how I should turn Metro, then newly acquired by **Geny Lopez** from **Larry Cruz**, into a style magazine.

It was also Auggie who, noting the influx of brides into his shop, told me that perhaps it was time to have a glossy weddings magazine. Almost all his brides would bring Martha Stewart Weddings magazine to his shop, its pages marked for favorite designs or striking ideas. Therefore, he nudged me, why don't you have a local weddings magazine? And we did.



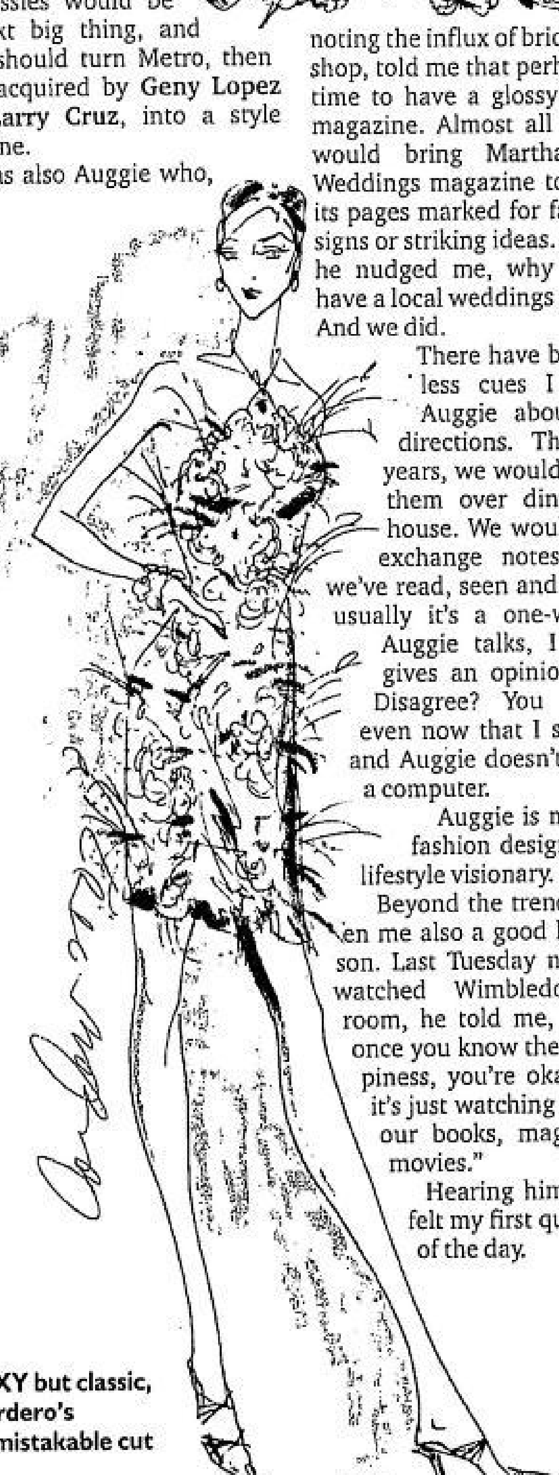
WEDDING tour de force. Cordero is a bridal wear innovator.

There have been countless cues I got from Auggie about lifestyle directions. Through the years, we would talk about them over dinner in his house. We would talk and exchange notes on what we've read, seen and heard. But usually it's a one-way street: Auggie talks, I listen; he gives an opinion, I agree. Disagree? You can't, not even now that I surf the net and Auggie doesn't even have a computer.

Auggie is more than a fashion designer. He is a lifestyle visionary.

Beyond the trends, he's given me also a good lifestyle lesson. Last Tuesday night, as we watched Wimbledon in his room, he told me, "You know once you know the key to happiness, you're okay. With us, it's just watching this, having our books, magazines and movies."

Hearing him say that, I felt my first quiet moment of the day.



SEXY but classic, Cordero's unmistakable cut

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inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Crossings in Trinoma introduces more upcoming and exciting designers

Fashion future forward

CANVAS bag by Possibility (P680)

ZCARPA heel (P6,615)

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

CALL IT BLIND FAITH, BUT Alexandra Ramos-Padilla's confidence in local fashion designers is also admirable.

It hasn't been two years since she introduced 15 brands created by some under-the-radar fashion talents in the family's Crossings Department Store in Mandaluyong, where she's the general manager. Now, she's providing an additional venue for these designers with the opening of Crossings' Trinoma Mall branch in Quezon City.

"Our goal is to provide infrastructure to our designers," she explains of the concept behind The Ramp, Crossings' selection of ready-to-wear labels. "We have so many fashion shows here, but it's not like abroad where you see consumers wearing those clothes several months later. We want our local talents to have avenue to sell their designs."

She is referring to Richie Ortega's United Pop (casual and party clothes), Debbie Co's After Eight (cocktail wear), Puey Quiñones' Vado (women's wear) and Mundo (menswear), Tippi Ocampo's Pret-A-Party (cocktail wear), Tina Navarro's Rocco and Ilaya, Mel Orlina's Crise-de-Nerfs (cocktail wear), among many others.

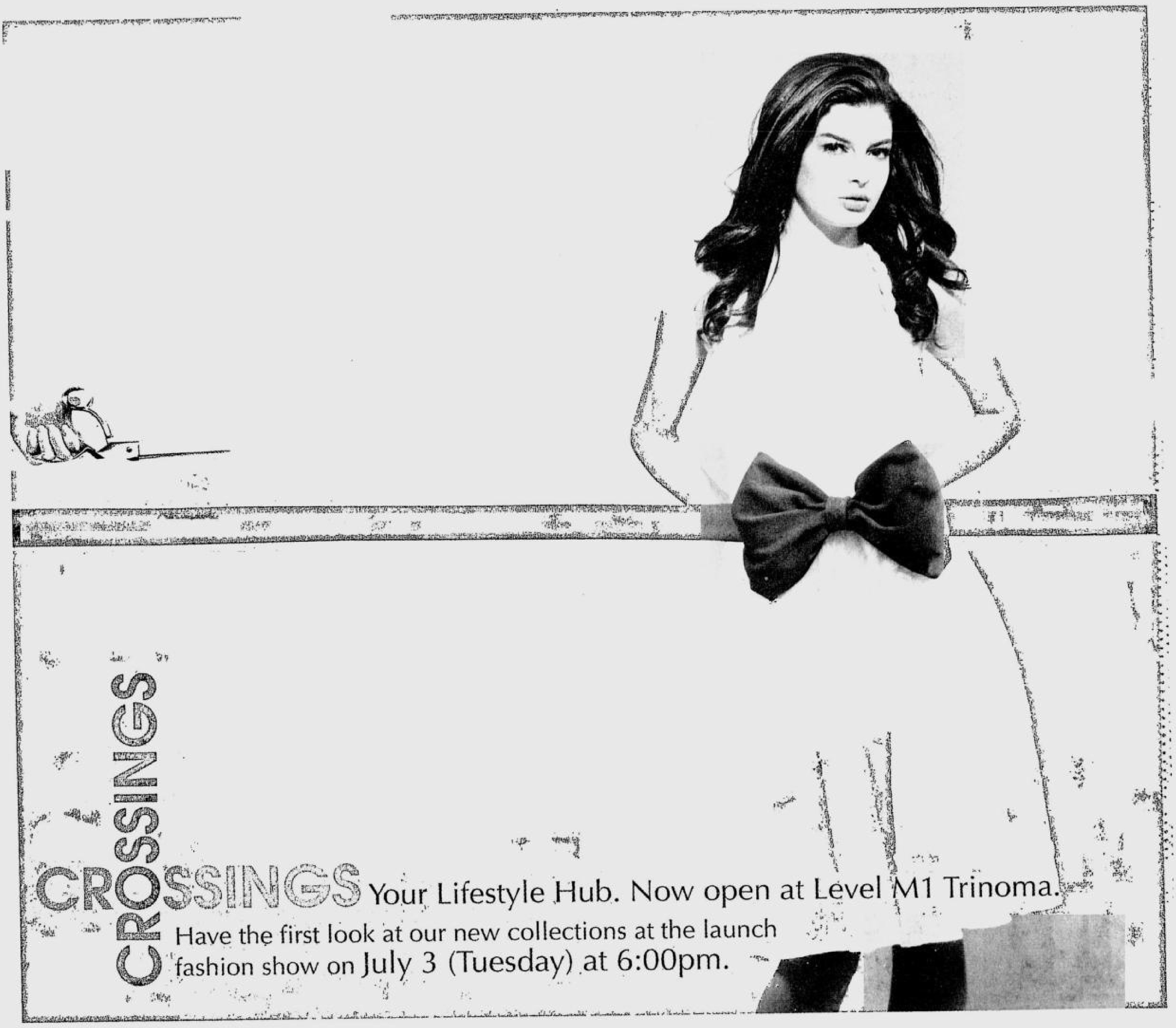
The selection is quite varied, but the supply is limited, giving premium to each piece without the prohibitive price tag. They're one-off in a sense, but Ramos-Padilla assured they come in different sizes "for women who aren't thin enough to pull off one-off sizes."

At the Trinoma branch, Ramos-Padilla even expanded the designer roster by bringing in brands by Asian designers. These are established brands in their countries of origin, designed by top young designers, though largely unknown in the Philippines.

Thai designer Chamnan Pakdeesuk's Fly Now label heads the slightly pricier range, with mostly silk pieces. Then there's casual

FASHION/ H2

CRISE De Nerfs dress (P3,120) ; At left is a dress by Richie Ortega (P9,500)



CROSSINGS Your Lifestyle Hub. Now open at Level M1 Trinoma.
Have the first look at our new collections at the launch fashion show on July 3 (Tuesday) at 6:00pm.

WALLFLOWER top with detachable collar, (P880)

FAITH Love Hope wraparound dress (P1,969)

DRESS by Czarina Villa, (P3,050)

DRESS by Nectar (P1,995)

DRESS by Vado (P2,290)

FAITH Hope Love dress (P939)

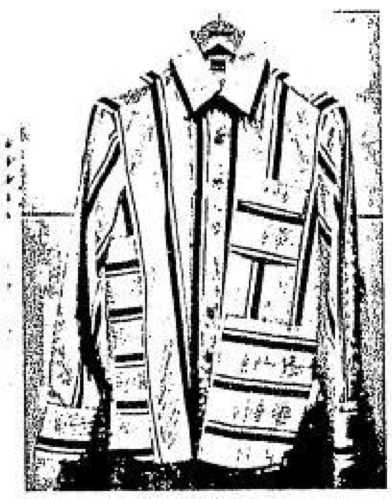
Fashion future forward

From page H1

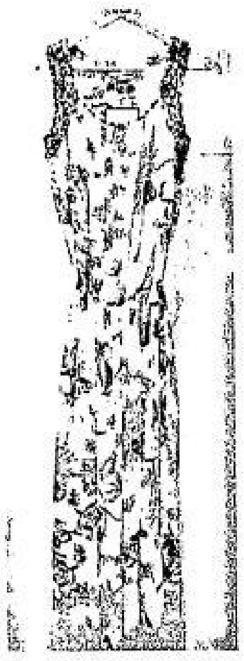
wear from Singapore's Abyzz label by Desmond Yang, and XSML from Jakarta.

Ramos-Padilla seems undeterred in this venture, even as she's aware of the fates that befell other Asian fashion labels previously brought here. "I hope positioning the brands this way, grouping them together in one place will work. If they become a hit, maybe we can later give them their own space," she says. Ramos-Padilla's ears are constantly close to the ground, actively looking out for promising Asian brands and local designers that she can bring into her roster.

The greater part of The Ramp is devoted to women's wear, with some requisite casual and dressier labels for men, including some athletic clothing and footwear. It also has sportswear and casual brands from Australia, like Running Bare, Bardot, Purr, French Kitty, plus a section devoted to sexy innerwear and body shapers. A first-time mom-to-be, Ramos-Padilla made sure a section for tots is also represented.

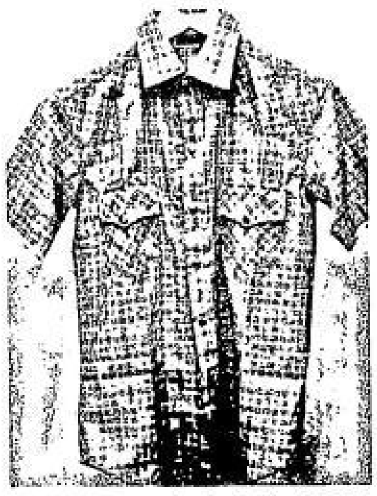

MUNDO shirt (P1,800)

MEN'S shirt by Mundo, (P1,650)

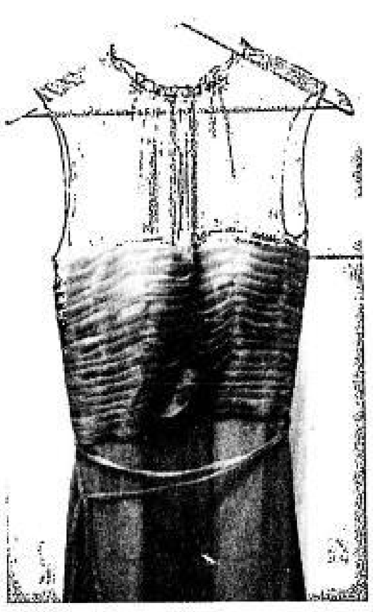

UNITED Pop dress (P3,690, detail shot)

PRET-A-PARTY dress (P2,950)

DEAN & Trent jacket (P1,300)

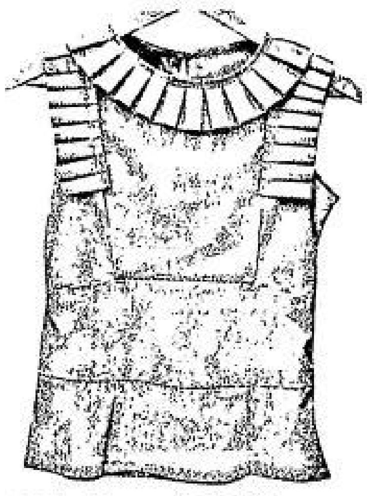

DEAN & Trent checked shirt (P800)

PANDANGO top (P1,800)


SONK long dress (P8,700)

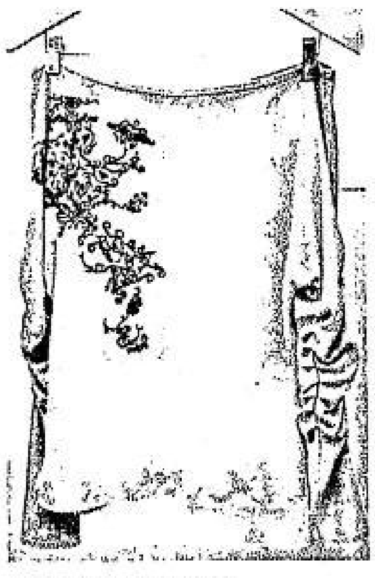
ABYZZ skirt (P2,879)

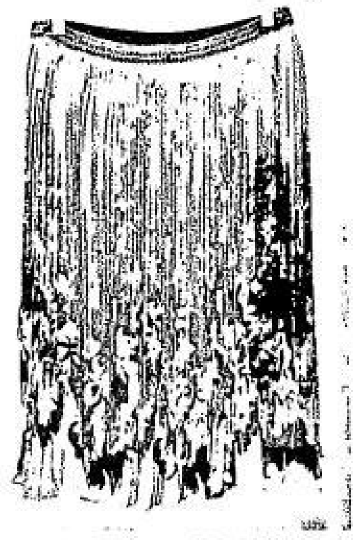
XSML top, (P2,059)

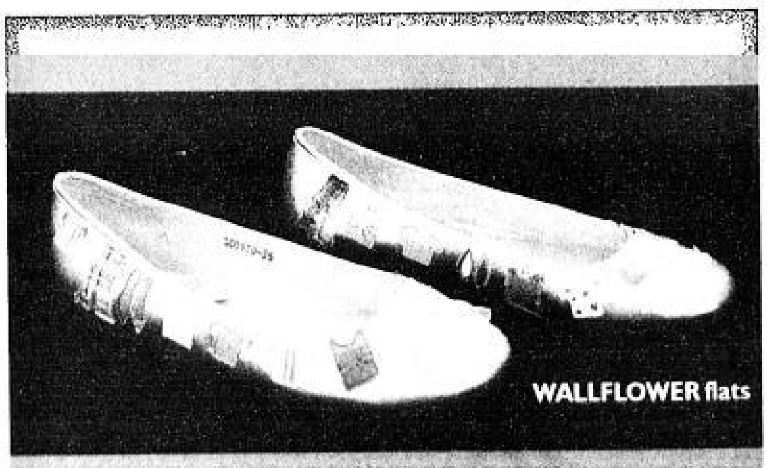

TOP by Nectar, (P1,295)

ABYZZ shirt (P2,999)

FLY Now top (P3,450)

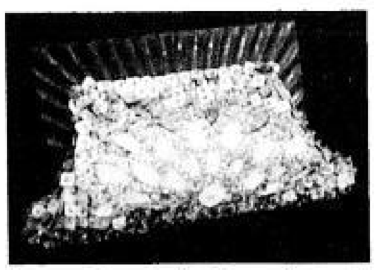

ABYZZ top (P2,129)

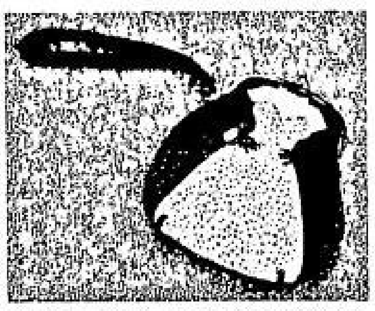

FLY Now silk skirt (P9,690)


WALLFLOWER flats

DRESS by United Pop (P2,460)

XSML dress (P2,190)


BEADED purse by Camadiv (P1,800)

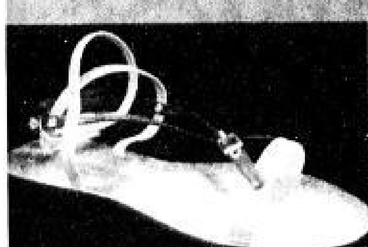

MINI purse by Proud Mary (P600)

CAMADIV bag (P1,600)

BEADED bag by Proud Mary (P5,800)

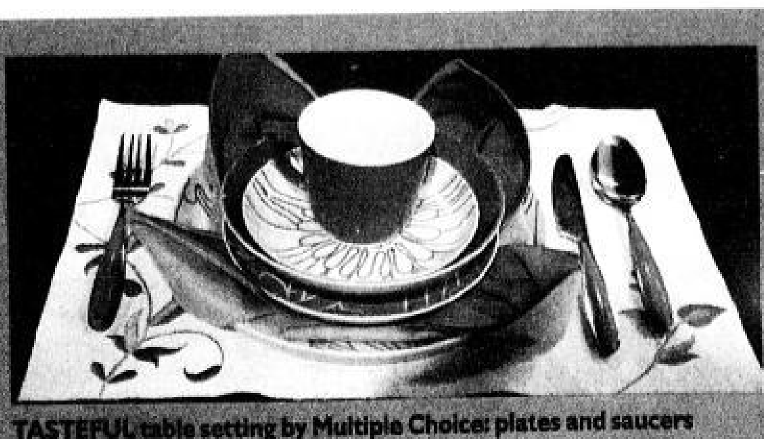
ST&Sat wedge-heel shoe, (P3,080)

SHOE by Urge (P1,020)


POSSIBILITY sandal

WALLFLOWER shoes (P2,399)

GOBLETS and margarita glasses, P364.75-P448.75/set of four


TASTEFUL table setting by Multiple Choice: plates and saucers (P1,999.75); spoon, fork and knife (P1,398)

SIXTEEN-PIECE dinnerware set by Thomson Pottery (P899.75)

A Space of your own

MOULINEX juicer (P2,616)

KRUPS coffeemaker (P4,398)

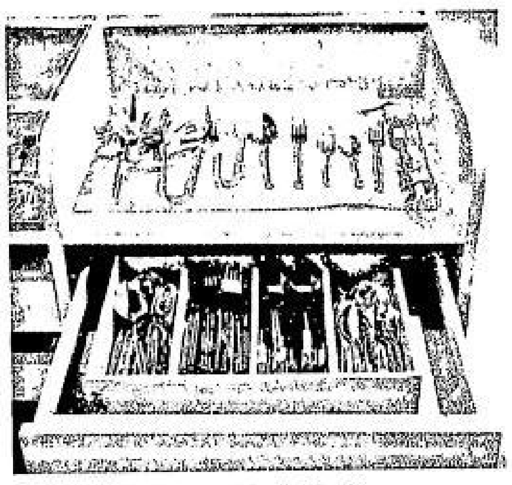
From page H4

Ramos-Padilla and Cuna work constantly with local suppliers and exporters to come up with a varied selection of home accents. Some exporters even create exclusive designs only for Crossings. "I also attend home fairs or bazaars to look for more suppliers. We keep on looking for something unique and trendy yet reasonably priced because you can't sell items if they are too expensive," says Ramos-Padilla.

Most of Crossings' furniture, such as wooden dividers and dining tables, are imported from Malaysia, Bangkok and China.

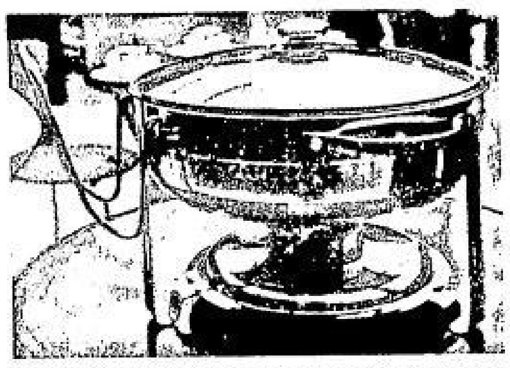
So, whether you're furnishing a room or an entire home, you'll find the products in Crossings helpful in your quest for the perfect abode.

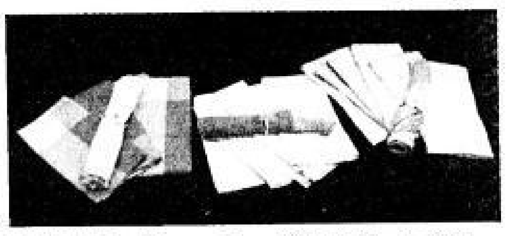
COMPLETE collection of bathroom accessories, from shower curtains, non-skid bath mats to towels, lotion and bubble dispensers and tissue boxes

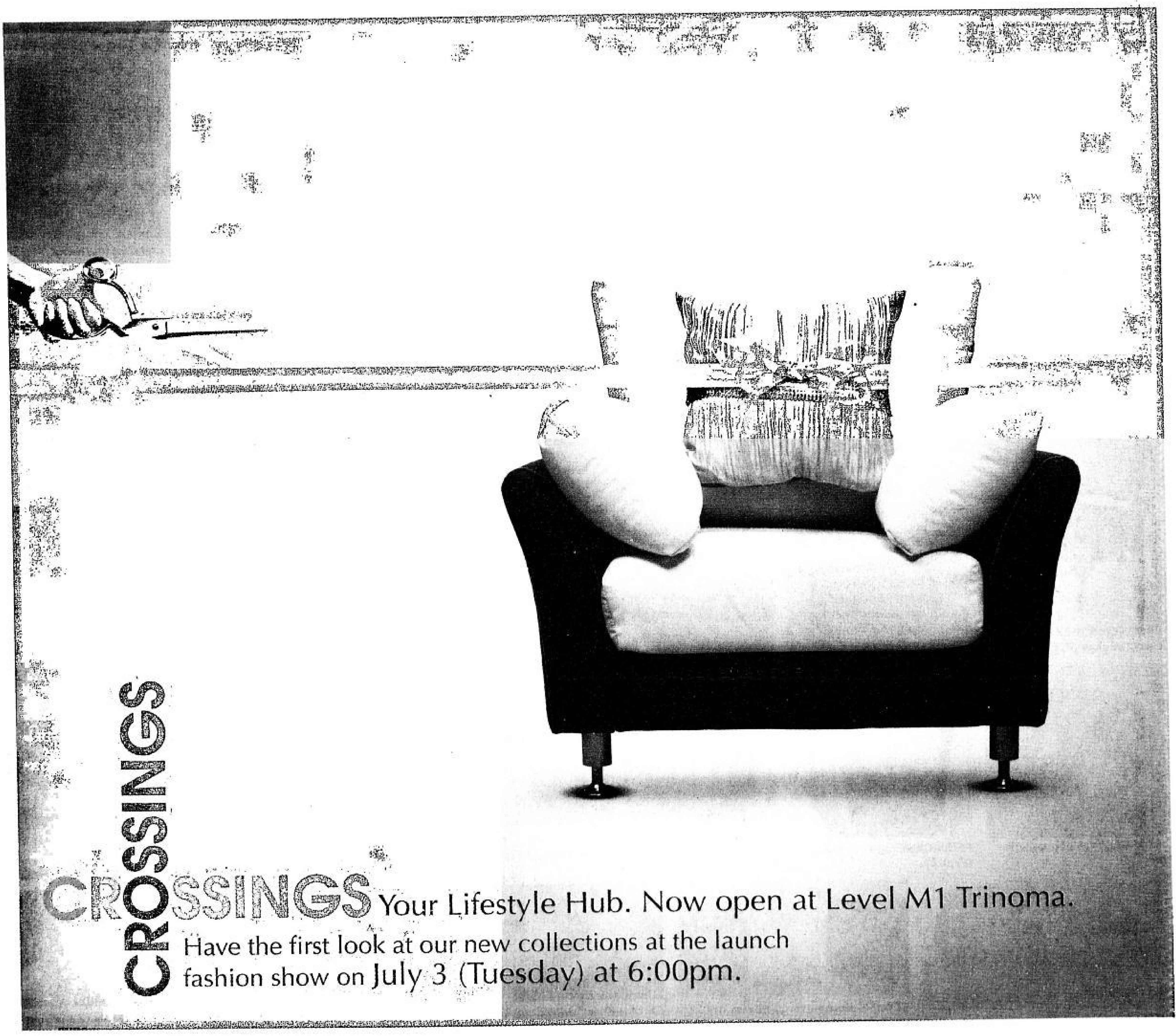

DINING utensils sold individually: spoon (P126), fork (P126), table knife (P150), teaspoon (P110) and cake fork (P126)

SLEEK slim vases with floral print (P1,315-P2,380)

CROSSINGS' kitchen and dining showcase


GLASS-COVERED stainless steel chafing dish with built-in burner (P1,259)


PRINTED table napkins, P275.75/set of six


CROSSINGS
CROSSINGS Your Lifestyle Hub. Now open at Level M1 Trinoma.
Have the first look at our new collections at the launch fashion show on July 3 (Tuesday) at 6:00pm.

A Space of your own

The home corner at Crossings in Trinoma provides homemakers a variety of individual styles

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

IS THERE ANYTHING MORE appealing than easing into a comfy overstuffed sofa?

In beige suede fabric, this perennially popular choice is like a blank page begging you to express yourself.

Throw in a few flanged floral pillows and you send the message across that here is a cozy seat to settle in for a nice cup of tea and a chit-chat.

Or if you desire a slightly edgy but equally striking finish for your cozy couch, choose sophisticated throw pillows in bold, solid, striped print, beaded, sequined, or synthetic leather weave.

You see, the key to easy decorating is choosing the right pieces, accents and furniture for your home. They can enhance traditional settings as well as modern ones and possibly improve every household's mood.

This is what Crossings' home section, called The Space, is all about. It helps create a comfortable and stylish abode for you. Innovative and high-quality furniture and accessories from here and abroad all find a place in this one-stop home shop.

Crossings at Trinoma Mall (Triangle North of Makati) is amazingly neat, bright and welcoming to home shoppers, just like the general manager herself, Alexandra Ramos-Padilla. She makes sure shoppers can easily find what they need for their homes.

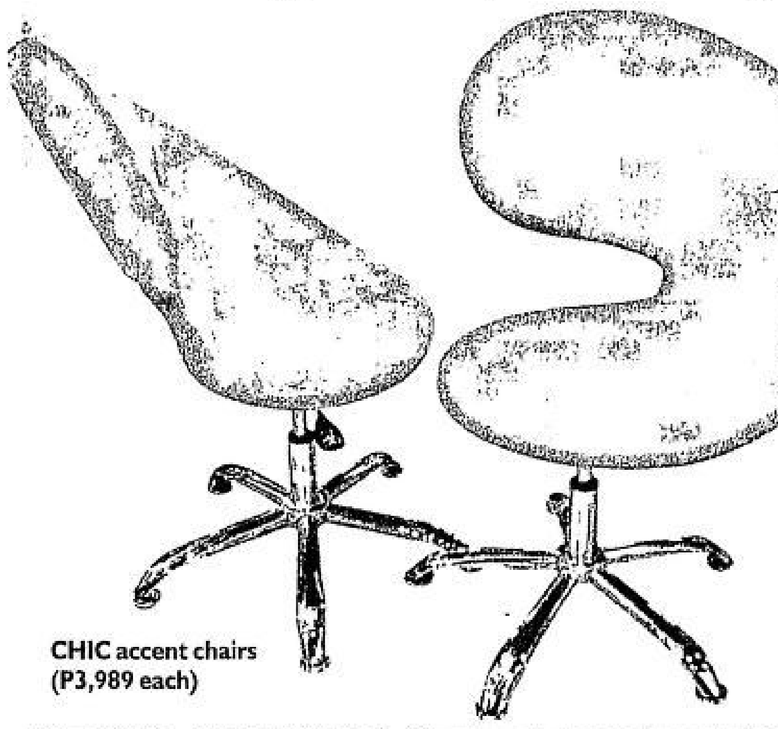
Be it a durable geometric-pattern rug for the living room; a soft, comfy, lightweight wool-filled bedding for the master's bedroom; a 100-percent cotton, color-coordinated, multitextured towel set for the bathroom; crystal bowls and decanters for the kitchen; or ergonomically designed swivel chairs for the home office.

Ramos-Padilla is aware that more and more people are deciding to make bold choices in redecorating their homes. And since she wants to help them feel comfortable about those choices, she tries to fill Crossings with all possible stuff for their homes—from big, sinkable sofas and armchairs, to the plush shag carpet, to ornate mirror and fine sculptures, making their place feel truly like home.

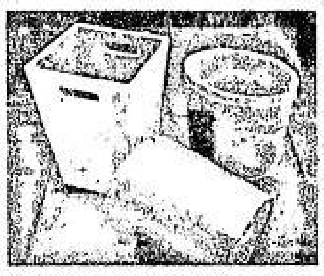
Even the layout of the store is easy and trouble-free. "We are proud of the layout of The Space because you get to see all the products with just one stroll in the shop," Ramos-Padilla says. "It's like walking down the street, seeing the different personalities of the place. You won't miss a single thing."

Designed in collaboration with noted stylist Rachy Cuna, The Space is a clean and well-zoned home area, highlighting some accent pieces and furnishings to grab clients' attention, such as a stylish iron-cast table lamp shade and a shiny veneer coffee table with metal legs.

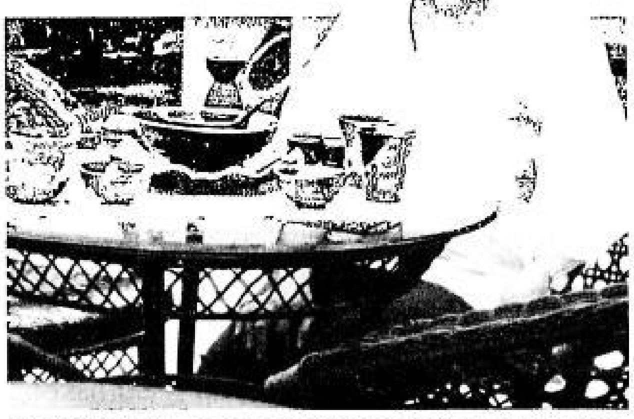
A SPACE/ H3



CHIC accent chairs (P3,989 each)



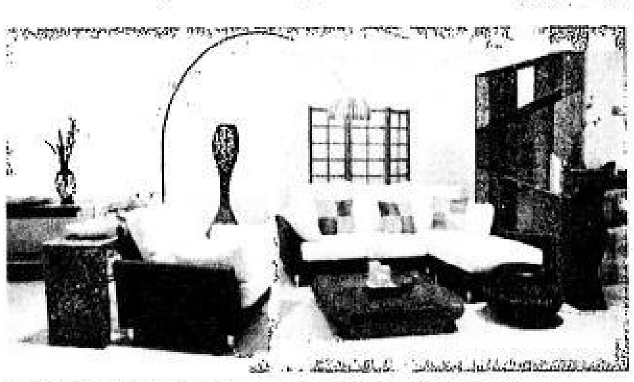
MULTIHUED waste baskets (P349.75-P876.75)



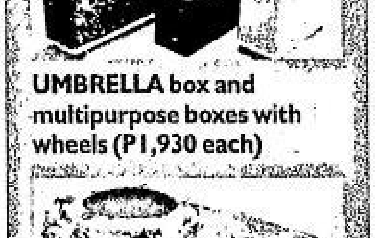
CROSSINGS' general manager Alexandra Ramos-Padilla

MAGAZINE racks, P876.75/small and P1,668/big

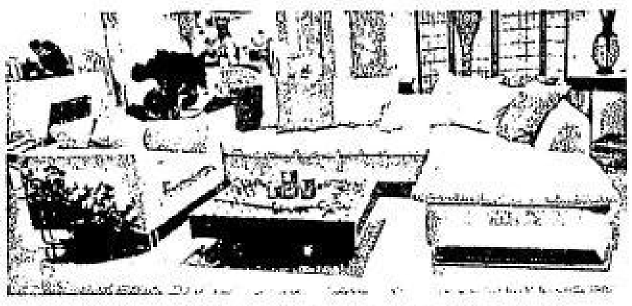
UMBRELLA box and multipurpose boxes with wheels (P1,930 each)



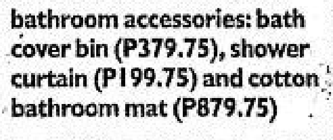
CROSSINGS' The Space presents various home improvement ideas.



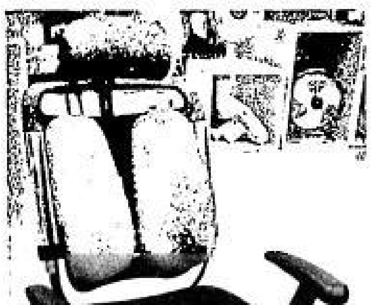
COLOR-COORDINATED bathroom accessories: bath cover bin (P379.75), shower curtain (P199.75) and cotton bathroom mat (P879.75)



L-SHAPED sofa (P98,000) with wooden coffee table (P14,898), imported from Malaysia



FLOWER bathroom set (P1,000)



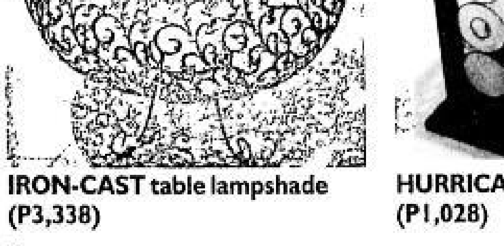
ERGONOMICALLY designed executive chair (P10,000)

BARCELONA single sofa (P27,448) and ottoman with metal legs (P15,128)

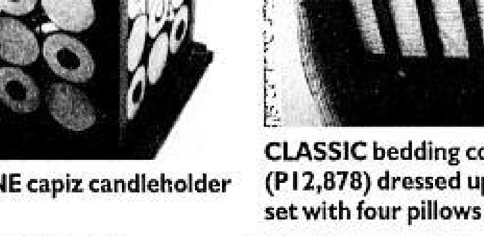
IRON-CAST table lampshade (P3,338)

HURRICANE capiz candleholder (P1,028)

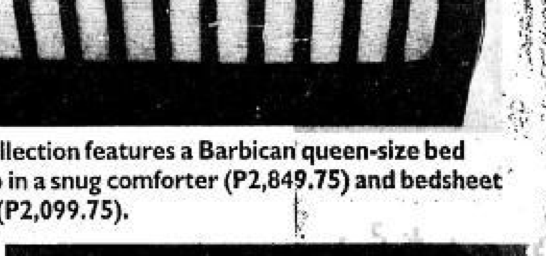
CLASSIC bedding collection features a Barbican queen-size bed (P12,878) dressed up in a snug comforter (P2,849.75) and bedsheet set with four pillows (P2,099.75).



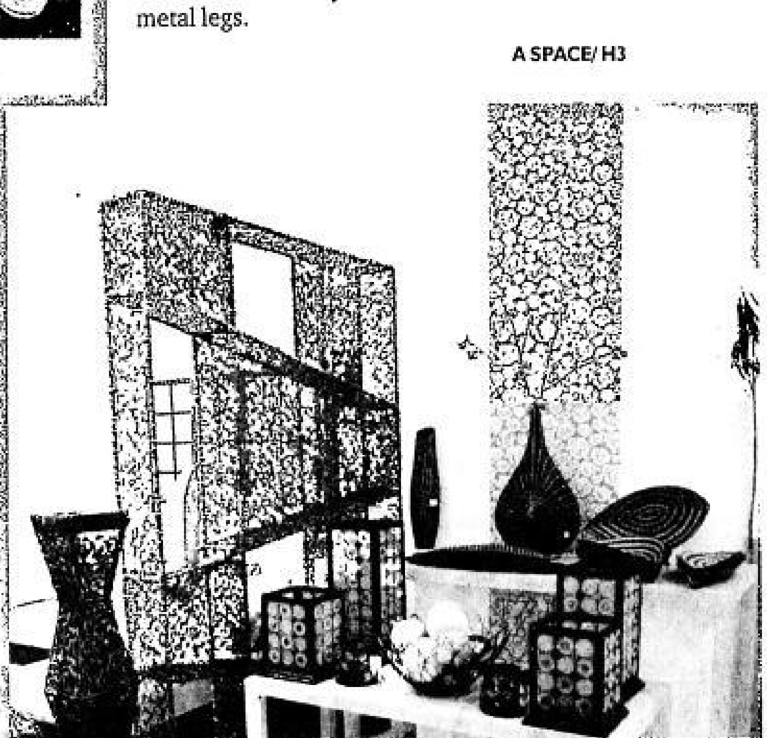
RED cube stool and *siopao* seat (P2,800 each)



STYLISH sequined throw pillows in black, silver and gold (P1,078 each)



FAUX leather throw pillows in three colors (P1,578 each)



EYE-CATCHING divider and accent pieces in native abaca and capiz for Filipino-inspired living rooms

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INSIDE
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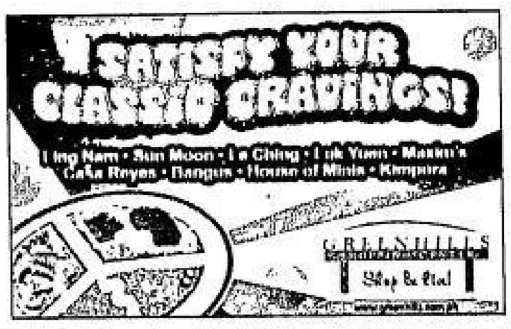
- **Getting to know the young star of 'Transformers'** Only In Hollywood /J1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ORANGE team, led by Marco Alcaraz (first from L), heckles rivals, as Anjo Yllana, foreground, holds the microphone.

GREEN Team muse Alicia Mayer compete in Pigandaugaga.

Playtime for stars

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by August de la Cruz

FOR SURE, NOT EVERYONE WAS GRIMLY going for gold that afternoon.

After all, games like "Pies to Face," "Dulas Man Standing" and "Pool Lipat-Lipat" have never been seen in the real Olympics.

"It was tiring but fun," recalled "Impostora" star, and Violet team muse, Iza Calzado.

Judging from the photos on this spread, the "Kapusolympics," held at the Marikina Sports Park on June 23, was a riot.

Mounted to jump-start GMA 7's 57th anniversary celebration, the event also aimed to strengthen camaraderie among the network's stars. "It was a chance for us to get together and enjoy each other's company. The Kapuso spirit was felt in every activity," Calzado related.

Kapuso's hunk-in-residence Alfred Vargas acted as torchbearer; Sen. Bong Revilla led the oath-taking. The Green team, led by Wendell Ramos, emerged as grand champions, with the Violet team in second place and the Red team in third.

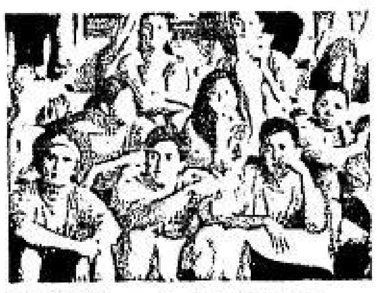
Calzado's favorite part was the Giant Soccer championship round. "It was so difficult," she said. "Our team finished second, but we were inspired to give our best."

The Kapusolympics goes on air on Sunday, July 1.

IWA MOTO cheers for her team.

POLO Ravales and Marco Alcaraz weigh in their pie.

EHRA Madrigal, when she sizzles, by the pool.



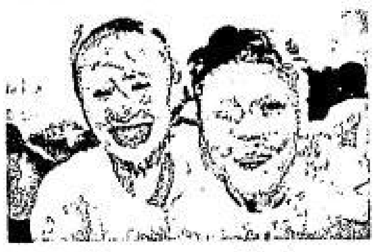
GREEN team, led by Wendell Ramos (center, first row), is grand champ.

SEN. Bong Revilla leads the oath-taking.

BOY 2 Quizon splashes in for the Green team.

MICHAEL V gamely acts as shutterbug for pals.

JESI Corcuera of "Starstruck" gets wet in Pool Lipat-Lipat.



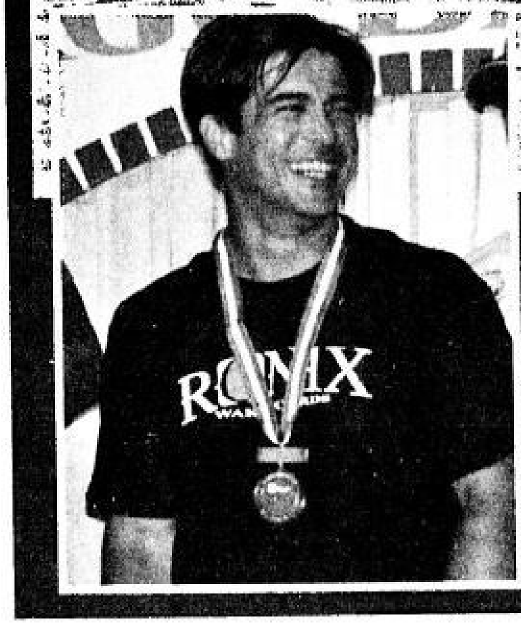
YELLOW teammates Charisse Solomon and Mang Enriquez make faces after Pasa Pie.

IZA CALZADO and Karel Marquez play Pool Lipat-Lipat.

YELLOW team takes a dive, with Mang Enriquez (in boxers, far right) jumping the gun.

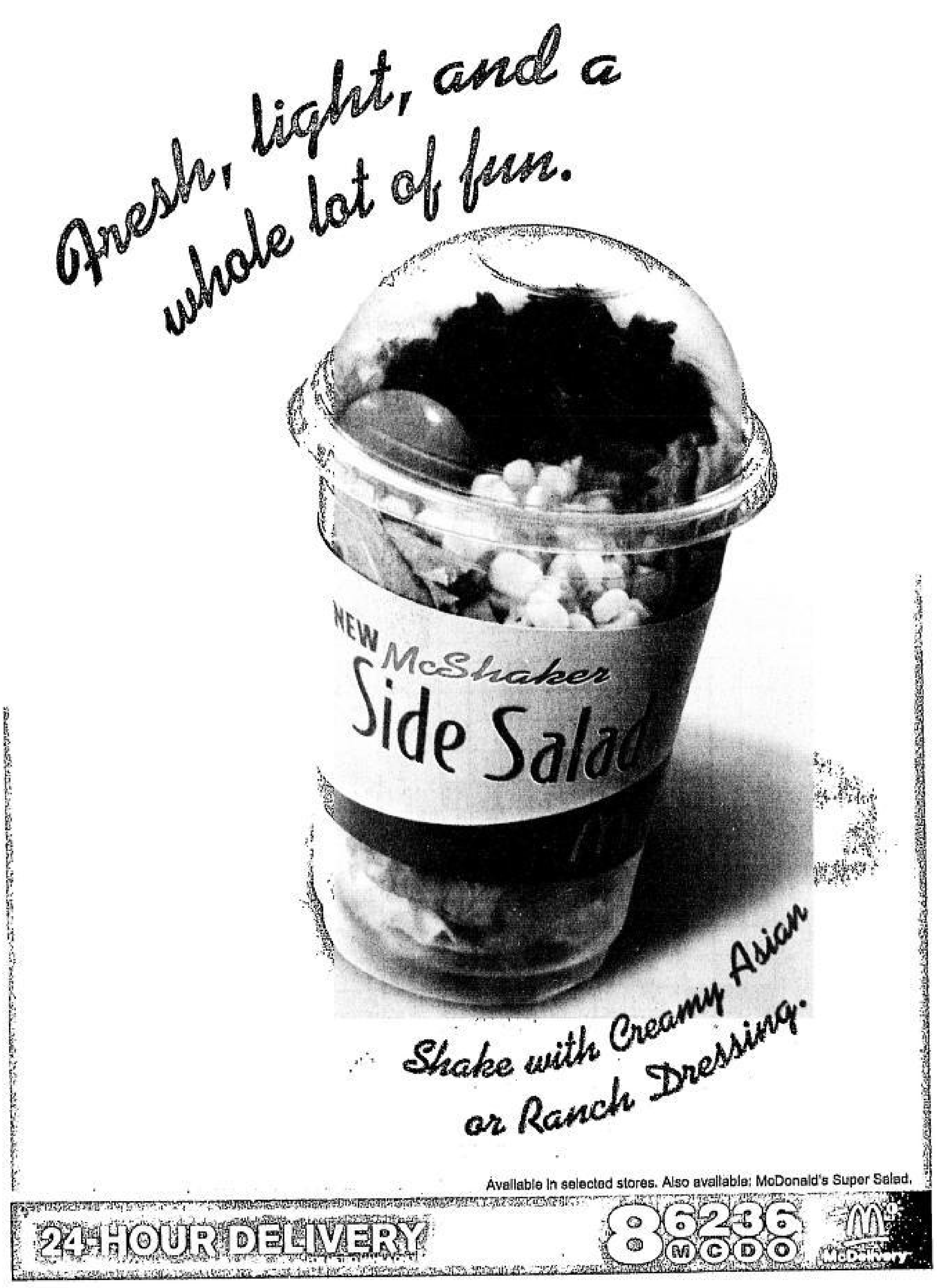
"STARSTRUCK" alumna Rhea Nakpil play Sabay-Sabay sa Pie.

HOBBIES



AGA MUHLACH

WAKEBOARDING is Aga's latest passion. "I'm addicted to this sport," he admits. Aga competed in the men's intermediate division at Lago de Oro's 3rd Perpetual Cup, which kicked off on June 23 in Calatagan, Batangas. Although he didn't win, he was all smiles by the end of the contest. (And he tried one victor's medal for size, left.) As seen above, he has fun even when he fumbles. "I love the feeling of hitting the water face first when I miss a trick," he says.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NEW McShaker Side Salad
Shake with Creamy Asian or Ranch Dressing.
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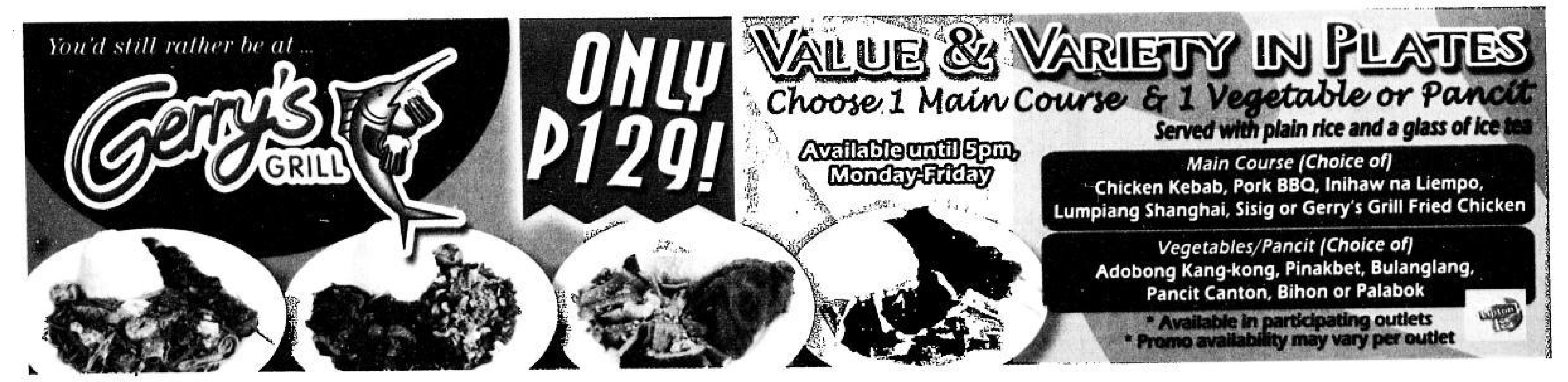
24-HOUR DELIVERY
8 6236 MCDO
McDelivery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Choose 1 Main Course & 1 Vegetable or Pancit
Served with plain rice and a glass of ice tea
Available until 5pm, Monday-Friday
Main Course (Choice of)
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Vegetables/Pancit (Choice of)
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* Promo availability may vary per outlet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

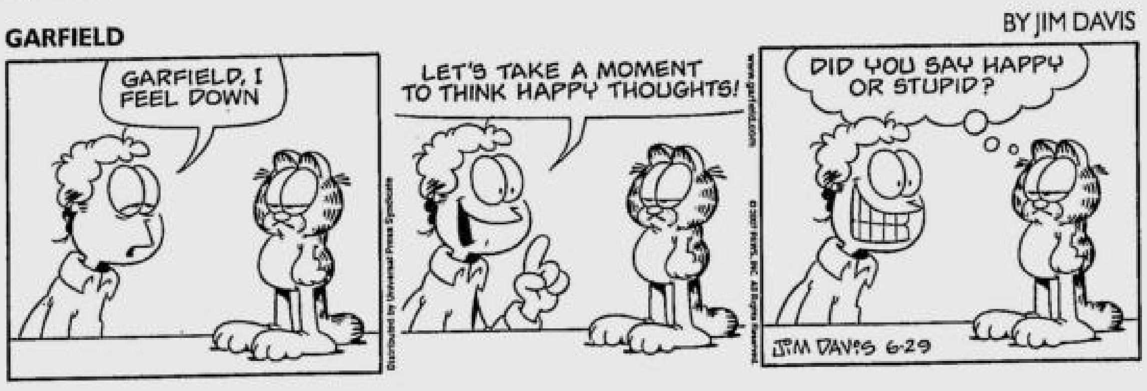
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2007

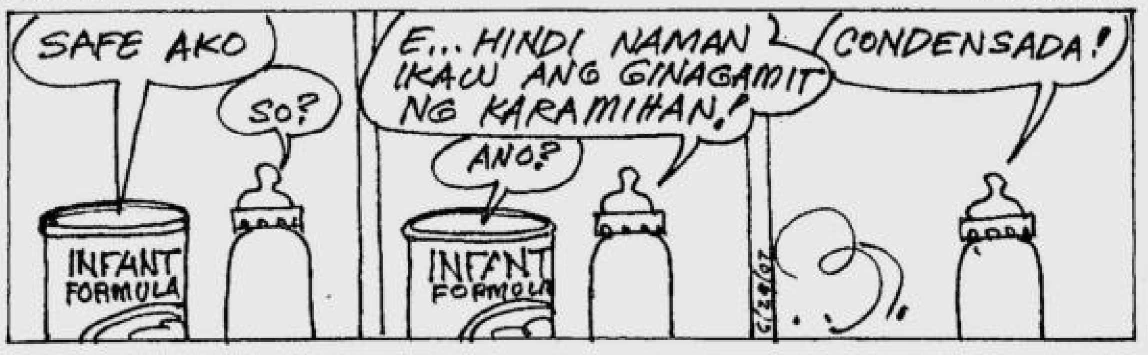
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


GARFIELD, I FEEL DOWN
LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO THINK HAPPY THOUGHTS!
DID YOU SAY HAPPY OR STUPID?
JIM DAVIS 6-29

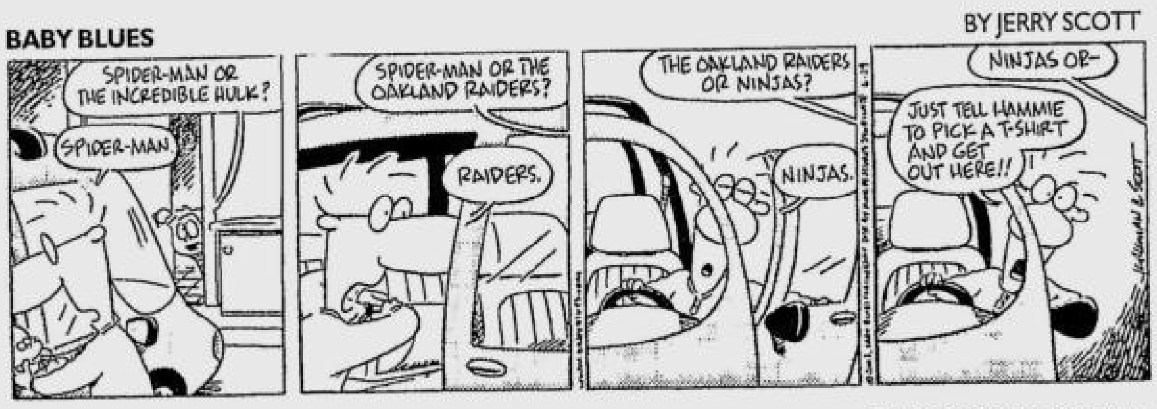
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SAFE AKO
SO?
INFANT FORMULA
E... HINDI NAMAN IKAW ANG GINAGAMIT NG KARAMIHAN!
ANO?
INFANT FORMULA
CONDENSADA!
6.29.07

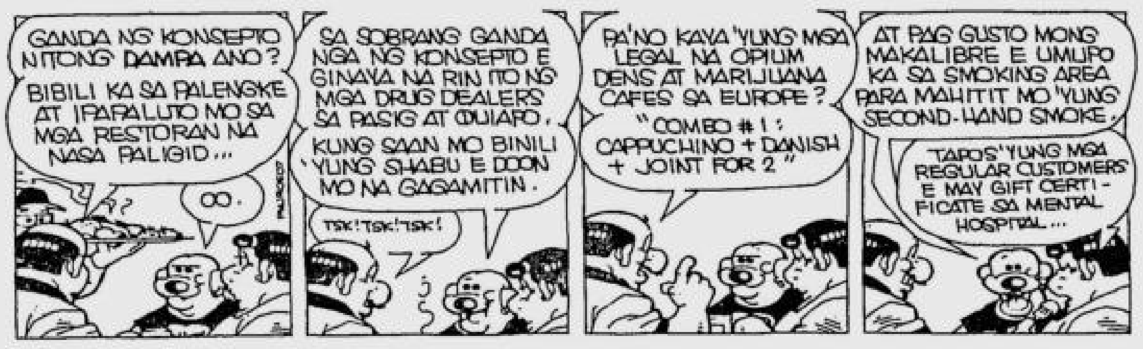
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SPIDER-MAN OR THE INCREDIBLE HULK?
SPIDER-MAN
SPIDER-MAN OR THE OAKLAND RAIDERS?
RAIDERS.
THE OAKLAND RAIDERS OR NINJAS?
NINJAS.
NINJAS OR-
JUST TELL HAMMIE TO PICK A T-SHIRT AND GET OUT HERE!!

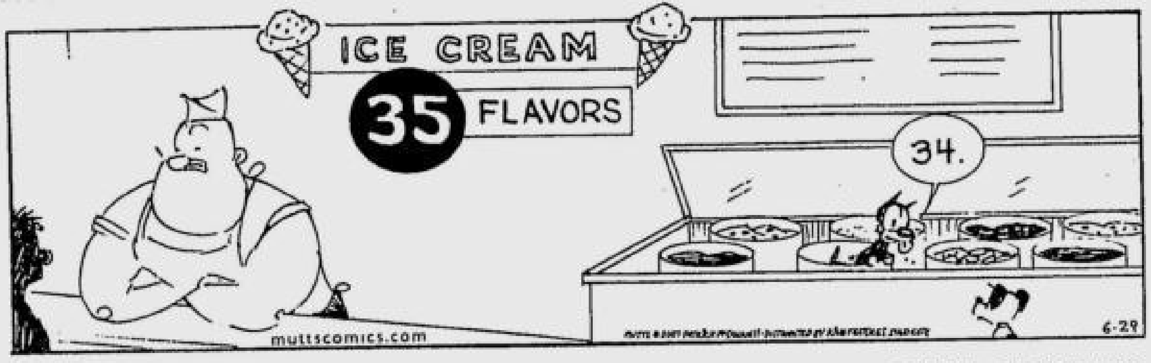
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GANDA NG KONSEPTO NITONG DAMPA ANO?
BIBILI KA SA PALENGKE AT IPAPALUTO MO SA MGA RESTORAN NA NASA PALIGID...
OO.
SA SOBRANG GANDA NGA NG KONSEPTO E GINAYA NA RIN ITO NG MGA DRUG DEALERS SA PASIG AT QUIAPO.
KUNG SAAN MO BINILI 'YUNG SHABU E DOON MO NA GAGAMITIN.
TSK! TSK! TSK!
PA'NO KAYA 'YUNG MGA LEGAL NA OPIUM DENS AT MARIJUANA CAFES SA EUROPE?
"COMBO #1: CAPPUCHINO + DANISH + JOINT FOR 2"
AT PAG GUSTO MONG MAKALIBRE E UMUPO KA SA SMOKING AREA PARA MAHITIT MO 'YUNG SECOND-HAND SMOKE.
TAPOS 'YUNG MGA REGULAR CUSTOMERS E MAY GIFT CERTIFICATE SA MENTAL HOSPITAL...

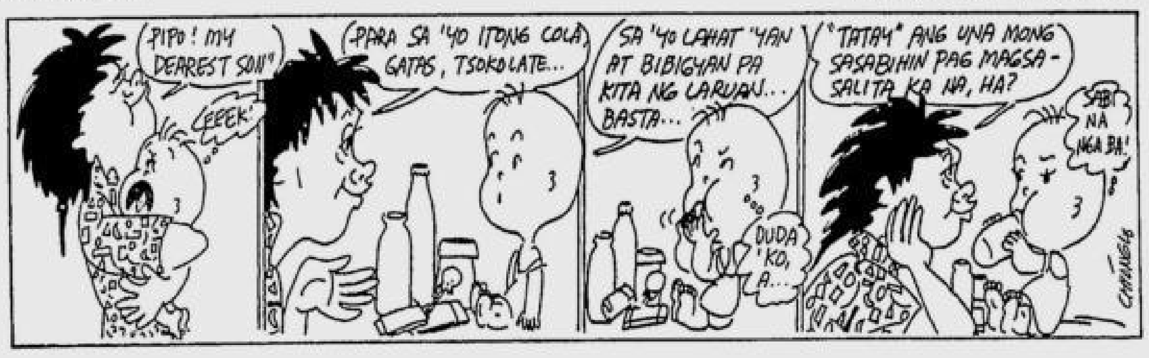
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ICE CREAM
35 FLAVORS
34.
muttscomics.com
6-29

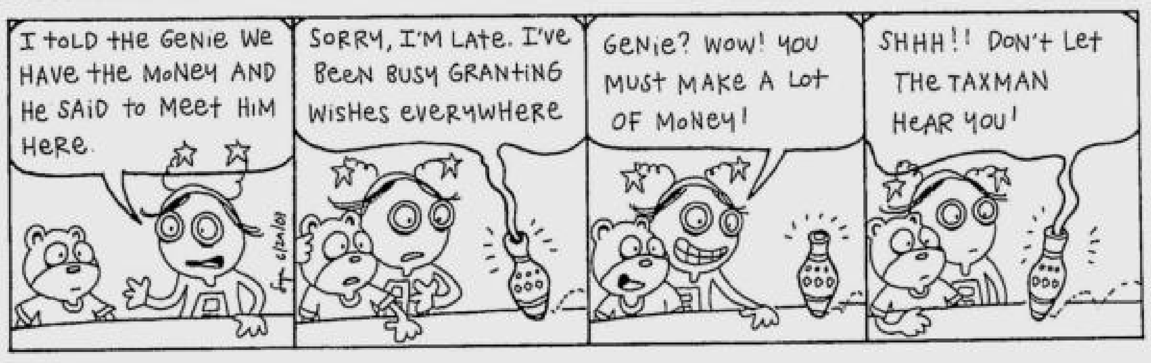
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO! MY DEAREST SON!
EEEK!
PARA SA 'YO ITONG COLA, GATAS, TSOKOLATE...
SA 'YO LAHAT 'YAN AT BIBIGYAN PA KITA NG LARUAN... BASTA...
DUDA 'KO, A...
"TATAY" ANG UNA MONG SASABIHIN PAG MAGSASALITA KA NA, HA?
SABI NA NGA BA!
CHIONGLO

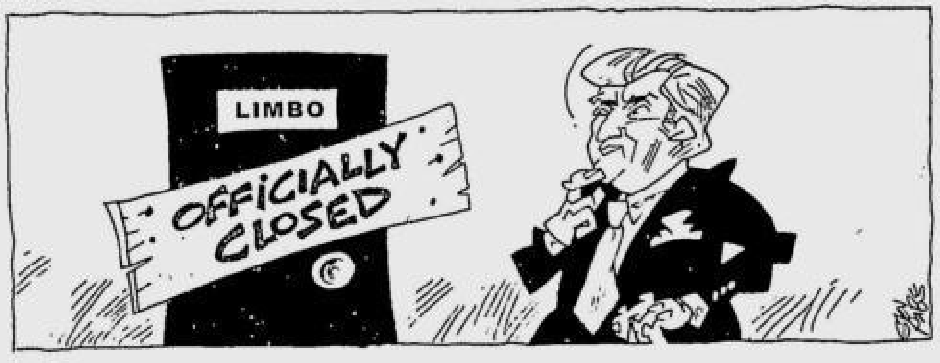
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I toLD the Genie We HAVE the MoNey AND He SAID to Meet HiM Here.
SORRY, I'M LaTe. I've Been Busy GRANTING Wishes everywhere
Genie? Wow! you MusT MAKE A Lot OF MoNey!
SHHH!! Don't Let The TAXMAN HeAR you!

DIVINE COMEDY

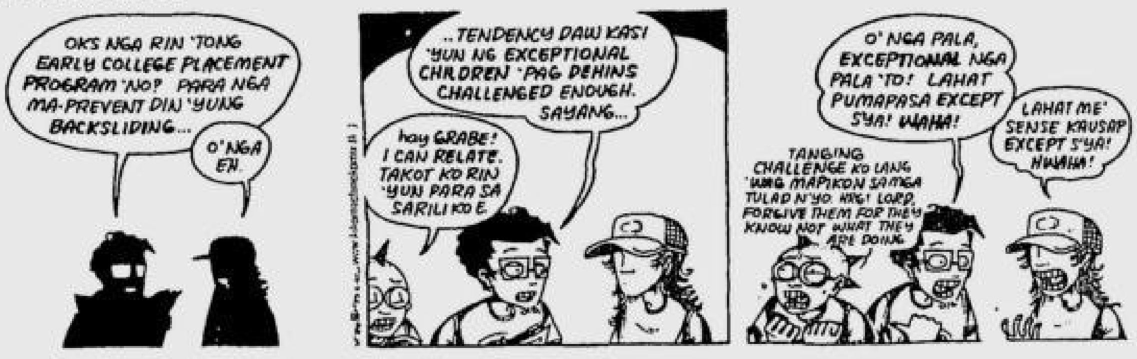
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LIMBO
OFFICIALLY CLOSED

NANG
NALAMAN NI
DONALD
TRUMP
NA ISINARA
NA NI
POPE
BENEDICT
ANG LIMBO,
BINALAK
NYANG
BILHIN ITO
AT LAGYAN
NG CASINO

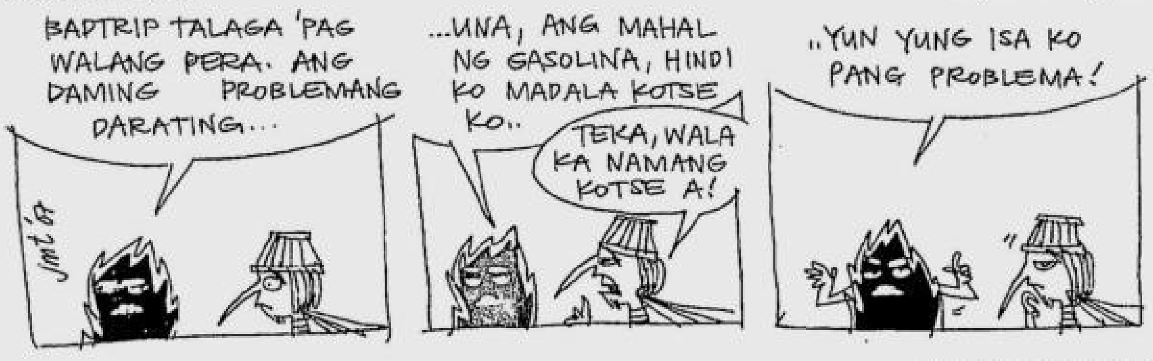
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


OKS NGA RIN 'TONG EARLY COLLEGE PLACEMENT PROGRAM 'NO? PARA NGA MA-PREVENT DIN 'YUNG BACKSLIDING...
O'NGA EN.
..TENDENCY DAW KASI 'YUN NG EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN 'PAG DEHINS CHALLENGED ENOUGH. SAYANG...
hay GRABE! I CAN RELATE. TAKOT KO RIN 'YUN PARA SA SARILI KO E.
O'NGA PALA, EXCEPTIONAL NGA PALA 'TO! LAHAT PUMAPASA EXCEPT S'YA! WAHA!
LAHAT ME' SENSE KAUSAP EXCEPT S'YA! HWAHA!
TANGING CHALLENGE KO LANG 'WAG MAPIKON SA MGA TULAD N'YO. HAY! LORD, FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

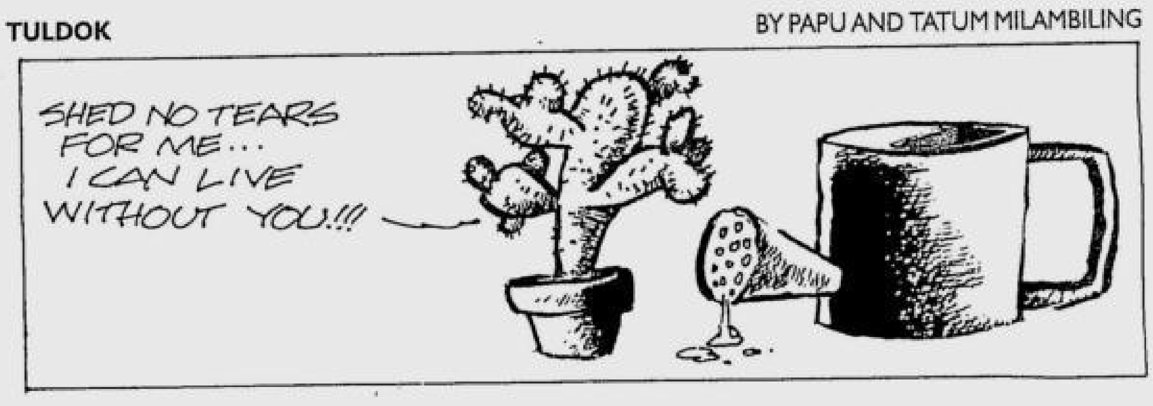
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BADTRIP TALAGA 'PAG WALANG PERA. ANG DAMING PROBLEMANG DARATING...
...UNA, ANG MAHAL NG GASOLINA, HINDI KO MADALA KOTSE KO..
TEKA, WALA KA NAMANG KOTSE A!
..YUN YUNG ISA KO PANG PROBLEMA!
jmt'07

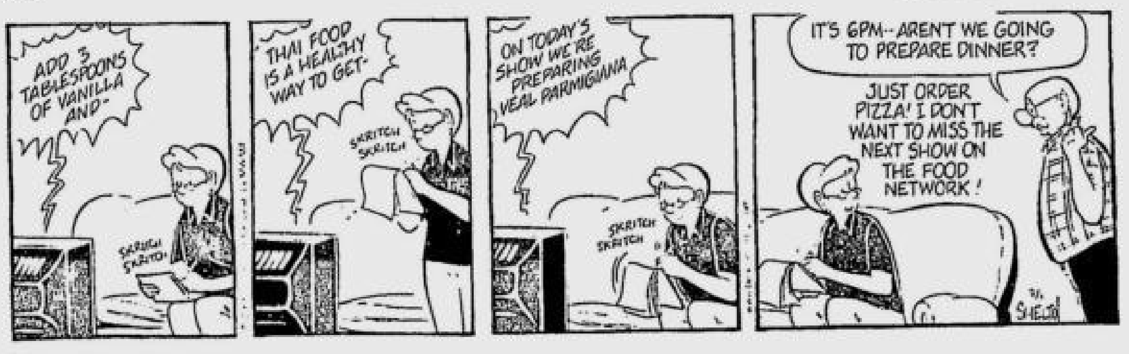
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SHED NO TEARS FOR ME... I CAN LIVE WITHOUT YOU!!!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ADD 3 TABLESPOONS OF VANILLA AND-
SKRITCH SKRITCH
THAI FOOD IS A HEALTHY WAY TO GET-
SKRITCH SKRITCH
ON TODAY'S SHOW WE'RE PREPARING VEAL PARMIGIANA
SKRITCH SKRITCH
IT'S 6PM-- AREN'T WE GOING TO PREPARE DINNER?
JUST ORDER PIZZA! I DON'T WANT TO MISS THE NEXT SHOW ON THE FOOD NETWORK!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			■	15				■	16					
17			■	18				19						
20			21			■	22					■	■	■
23				■	24	25			■	■	26	27	28	29
■	■	30		31	■	32			33	34	■	35		
36	37				38			■	39		40			
41							■	42						
43						■	44							
45			■	46		47			■	48			■	■
49			50	■	■	51			52	■	53		54	55
■	■	■	56	57	58			■	59	60				
61	62	63						64			■	65		
66						■	67				■	68		
69						■	70				■	71		

By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

6/29/07

ACROSS

1 Palindromic sib
4 Goya's "The Naked __"
8 Vocalist Vandross
14 Immediately, initially
15 List element
16 Stir up
17 Track-and-field org.
18 1992-2001 Vikings coach
20 Singer Twain
22 Keyboard key
23 Allison of jazz
24 Sail support
26 Sports stn.
30 "Ben-__"
32 Lactic
35 Can. province
36 Zambezi falls
39 Get back to
41 Single-celled critters
42 Dolt
43 Hardy sidekick
44 Nora, to Asta
45 TV adjunct
46 French legislative body
48 Actress Taylor
49 Como __ Usted?
51 Pismires
53 Radar's drink
56 Mothers of Invention inventor
59 Continue
61 Boy George's band
65 Jean-__ Godard
66 Swimwear brand
67 Kinks hit
68 Simile center
69 Flowering shrub
70 __ May Clampett
71 Desire

DOWN

1 Tic
2 Twin Falls state
3 One indoor sports arena
4 Lengthy skirt
5 Best players
6 Aniston, casually
7 Memory loss
8 Final
9 Hankering
10 Yankees skipper Joe
11 Shade
12 Vane dir.
13 Stimpy's pal
19 Part of IHOP
21 Desex
25 Writer Kingsley
27 High-risk diamond ploy
28 Alternative to Nikes
29 Must have
31 Judicial attire
33 Actor Kristofferson
34 Streisand film
36 Trumpet gadget
37 Apple variety since 1998
38 Last breath
40 Sacred place
42 Brad of "Troy"
44 Handcuff
47 Scruff
50 Montezuma, notably
52 Brain covering
54 Word after 18A, 61A, 3D and 27D
55 Early Peruvian
57 Autobahn auto
58 Indonesian boat
60 On-line auction site
61 R.E. Lee's side
62 Mdse. identifier
63 Poetic meadow
64 Online chuckle

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

R	O	S	A	■	Z	E	E	S	■	L	U	C	A	S
A	V	I	V	■	E	A	R	P	■	A	T	O	L	L
N	E	B	O	■	A	R	I	A	■	N	U	T	T	Y
D	R	Y	W	A	L	L	E	R	S	A	R	E	■	■
S	T	L	■	C	O	Y	■	■	C	I	N	D	E	R
■	■	■	A	C	T	■	A	S	H	■	S	A	R	I
A	M	P	L	E	■	B	L	I	M	P	■	Z	O	O
W	E	L	L	P	A	I	D	F	O	R	J	U	S	T
A	D	O	■	T	W	E	E	T	■	A	I	R	E	S
S	E	W	S	■	I	N	N	■	G	Y	M	■	■	■
H	A	S	T	E	N	■	■	I	R	E	■	G	S	A
■	■	H	A	N	G	I	N	G	A	R	O	U	N	D
A	P	A	R	T	■	D	E	L	I	■	V	I	I	I
S	O	R	E	R	■	L	O	O	N	■	A	L	T	O
S	E	E	D	Y	■	E	N	O	S	■	L	E	S	S

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6/29/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a marvelous, childlike imagination and an appreciation for life. You will be forever young. Aviation, dance, speed and the arts often figure in your life. You enjoy being playful; nevertheless, you're smart with money. You have a fine mind, and you investigate things with keen interest. The year ahead can be one of the best, most powerful years of your life. Yay!

Birthdate of: Gary Busey, actor; George Zamka, astronaut; Kimberlin Brown, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Avoid religious and political arguments because that's just what you're tempted to do. You want to improve others. You want to help them see the light. (Oops—this sounds like meddling.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a poor day to discuss how to share something with others or how to divide something that is communally owned. You feel too touchy about this subject.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Resist the urge to try to make over your partner or close friend. Naturally, we all need improving simply because we're frail mortals on this planet. But everyone hates this kind of advice.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You want to introduce reforms and improvements to where you work. If others are receptive to your ideas, great. If they're not, cool it.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Parents should be gentle and tolerant with children today. I believe in the advice of Goethe: Correction does much, but encouragement does more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You want to make some changes at home that you think are improvements. Go ahead. This is also a good day to get rid of garbage and toss or recycle whatever you no longer really need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have strong opinions about practically everything today. This part is just fine. But don't try to get everyone else to jump on your bandwagon.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): By nature, you're intense. But today, you're even more so, especially about financial matters and your cash flow. You want to get the most bang for your buck.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're usually easy-going and breezy. But today you might be more like Darth Vader. The Moon and Pluto, lined up in your sign, make you very powerful!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Secrets and hidden activities might be part of your day. This doesn't have to be sneaky or illegal; it just means you're being very private about something. (Hey—you're allowed.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You can expect to meet someone very powerful today. Alternatively, you might be the powerful person others meet.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you want to suggest improvements to parents, teachers and bosses, go gently. They might not think it's a great idea, even if you do. (Gulp.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

					9		2	
4								
7		3	4		5		6	
					6		9	
	1		8		7		5	
	5		3					
	7		5		2	6		8
								3
	2		6					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

6/29

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	3	1	8	6	5	7	9	4
8	4	9	3	2	7	1	6	5
5	7	6	4	1	9	2	8	3
6	9	4	7	5	1	3	2	8
1	5	7	2	3	8	9	4	6
3	2	8	6	9	4	5	1	7
7	6	2	9	4	3	8	5	1
9	8	5	1	7	6	4	3	2
4	1	3	5	8	2	6	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

BERNADETTE SEMBRANO

BOOKS

MY FAVORITE IS MALCOLM GLADWELL'S "TIPPING Point." But recently I got so engrossed in "Banker to the Poor" by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel Prize awardee. I first read about him and people empowerment in the INQUIRER. He put up the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. He is also a teacher there.

I was inspired by this story. When I retire from broadcasting, I'd like to be involved in micro-financing or anything that has to do with empowerment. It's something that's close to my heart although, I admit, *hindi ko napagtutuunan ng pansin ngayon* because of my schedule. *Marinel R. Cruz*

IZA CALZADO

BOOKS

ONCE IN A WHILE, I RE-READ "BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE: COINCIDENCE or Miracle? Edition Three." It consists of stories compiled by Flor Gozon-Tarriela and Butch Jimenez. Different people, like Gary Valenciano and Donita Rose, contributed inspiring stories to this book. I contributed one on my mother's passing. The other book I'm reading now is "Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential" by Joel Osteen. When I stopped reading these books, I became negative and self-absorbed. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

SUN CELLULAR

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER
Shop & Live!

MANU SANDEJAS

TAIL TALES

SHOW BIZ CELEBS ARE PROBABLY THE most photographed people in the world. But among the thousands of snapshots that a star keeps, there is always one that is considered a "favorite."

For the recent launch of Kodak's bid for a slot in the Guinness Book of Records (World's Biggest Photo Album) Agot Isidro was among the first to share a treasured pic.

It's a photograph of her "family"—husband Manu Sandejas and their two dogs. "The loves of my life," she said. "Manu and I treat our dogs as our babies."

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL

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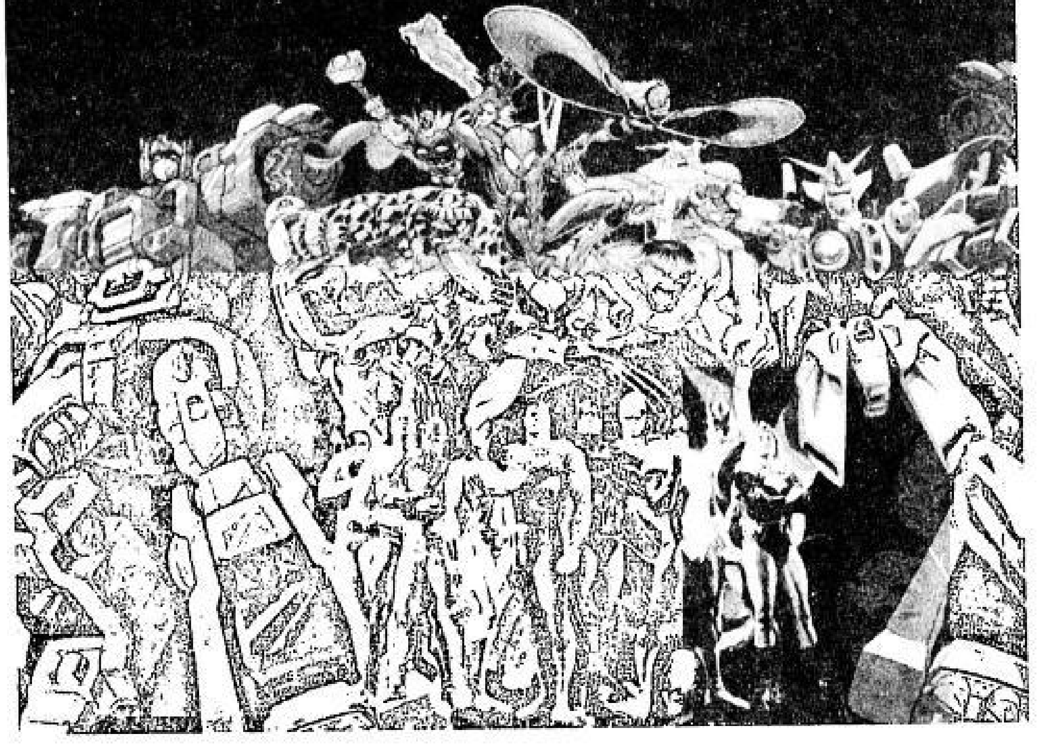
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	TRANSFORMERS	9:00, 1:20, 7:00, 9:50	GP
2	TRANSFORMERS	8:00, 11:40, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50	GP
3	TRANSFORMERS	12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20	GP
4	TRANSFORMERS	1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20	GP

2nd V-Mall
Toys & Collectible Exhibit
June 30 - July 1
Saturday and Sunday
10 am - 8 pm at the V-Mall lobby

Super Hero Fashion Show
June 30, 4 pm



glorietta · GREENBELT · ALABANG TOWN · AYALA CENTER CEBU · MARKET! MARKET! · Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1	GLORIETTA 1	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	TRANSFORMERS	BUG	TRANSFORMERS			
G4	GLORIETTA 4	TRANSFORMERS	TRANSFORMERS	THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	BUG	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	TRANSFORMERS	TRANSFORMERS
GB1	GREENBELT 1	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	TRANSFORMERS					
GB3	GREENBELT 3	THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX TRANSFORMERS GUARANTEED SEATS	TRANSFORMERS	TRANSFORMERS	TRANSFORMERS	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER		
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	TRANSFORMERS	TRANSFORMERS	THE INVISIBLE	TRANSFORMERS			
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	TRANSFORMERS	BUG	FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER	TRANSFORMERS	TRANSFORMERS		

Ayala CINEMAS

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CERTIFIED CINEMAS
THE TECHNOLOGY BEHIND THE BLOCKBUSTER

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER • TRINOMA
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Customer Service Numbers Glorietta - 752 7272, from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853, from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2752, from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BPI Express Credit Installment Madness June 13 to July 1, 2007	Toby's Sports Feast June 29 to July 1, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Mitsubishi Car Display June 28 to 30 at Paseos	Ballet & Arts Centre at 3/F near Hallway of Blims Registration period is fr June 15 - 30. Classes starts July 3

GREENBELT
Nissan Car Exhibit
June 29 to July 1, 2007 at the GB 3 Park

Greenbelt Onstage
ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007
For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861

Ayala MUSEUM
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"I HAVE lots of sunshine in my house," says Beverly Salviejo, who likes to surround herself with plants.

HOME BODY

How to have a house like this

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Edwin Bacasmas

Comedian Beverly Salviejo happily gave house-hunting tips to Living Stars during our visit to her three-story town house in Quezon City last week.

For starters, she said, it's best to go house-hunting in July—or during the rainy season— so "you can check for leaking pipes, clogged drainage and flooding."

Beverly also said that, in choosing a dwelling place, "You should listen to your instincts. There was a time when I ignored my gut feel and I had a terrible experience. When we moved to that house, my kids all became sickly and our business collapsed."

Beverly added that one should also consider the "flexibility" of the developer in relation to payments. "I couldn't afford a 30-percent down-payment. When I told my developer, he said it wasn't a problem," she explained.

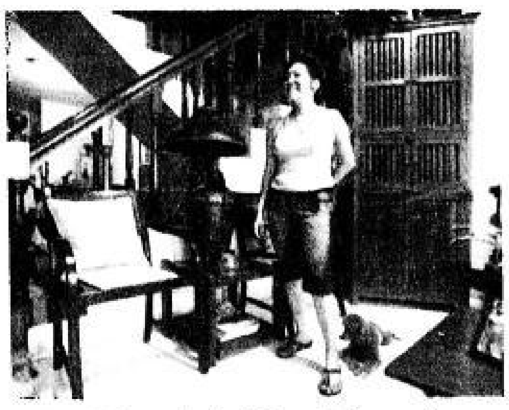
For those who are just starting to furnish their homes, Beverly—who is into wooden pieces—had this to say: "Don't rush. Hunt for bargains. Wait for the price to go down before buying a piece that you like."

Find places that sell cheap but quality stuff, Beverly added. For instance, the Dapitan Arcade in Manila, Casa Viejo in San Juan or flea markets at the World Trade Center in Pasay.

To save money, learn to refurbish and redecorate your own furniture. "I varnished my bedside cabinets," she said, "and reupholstered the stools in my living room."

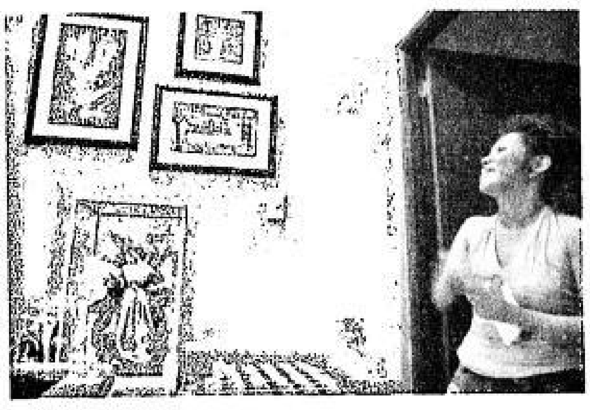
For Beverly, nothing beats having a home of your own. "Work hard and save up for your own house," she advised. "*Kahit maliit*. That's what I did. I didn't want to end up like other show biz workers who would make the rounds of TV shows asking for help."

THIS wooden chest is one of the first pieces she ever bought. "It has grapes (carved design) for good luck," the proud owner says.



RATTAN lampshade is from Palawan, the wooden Buddha figurine from Paete, Laguna. The cabinet holds pottery pieces that she made herself.

HANKY, her eldest son, spends a lot of time in the study room on the third floor.



SHE had some of her cross-stitch pieces framed and mounted on the wall. The angel figure in a glass case is another gift, this one from a fan.

ACCENT chair, left, is from in Ilocos Norte. At right is an authentic antique side table, a cherished gift from a friend.

Horn-shaped ornaments are from Papua New Guinea.

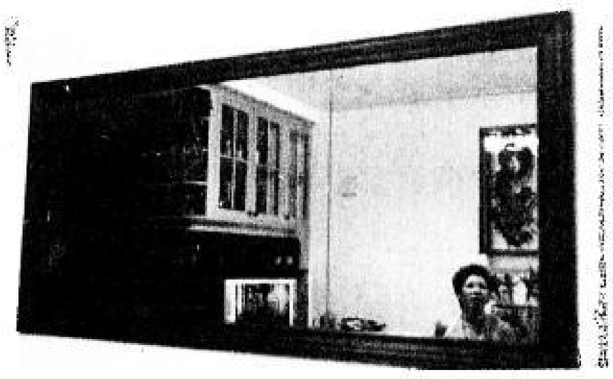
BEVERLY had most of the walls near the staircase torn down because, *"Ayaw ko ng masikip."*

Beverly varnished the wooden drawer beside the bed by herself. The bedframe itself is made from sturdy mahogany.

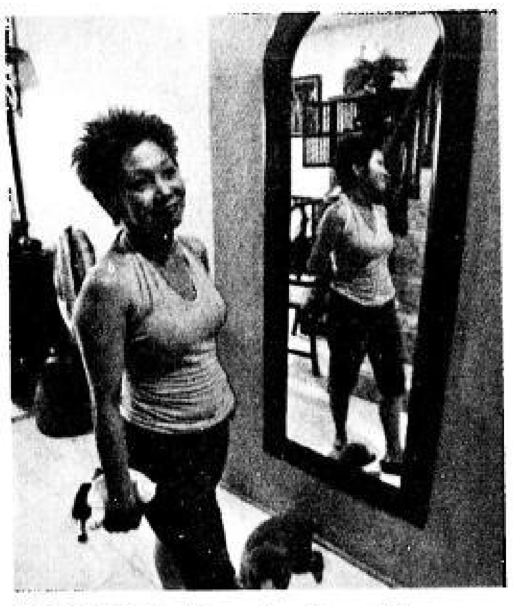
WINDOWS that used to be sliding glass panels were replaced when Beverly's son said they reminded him of drive-thru windows.

JUST outside the bedroom window are her *sili*, okra and *pechay* plants.

SHE assembled this water fountain, now home to several goldfish.



THE DINING room mirror, a present from husband Arnel, will soon be replaced with wooden planks and her figurine collection.



THE PLAIN-looking mirror bought from a department store turned into an elegant piece after it was framed in wood.

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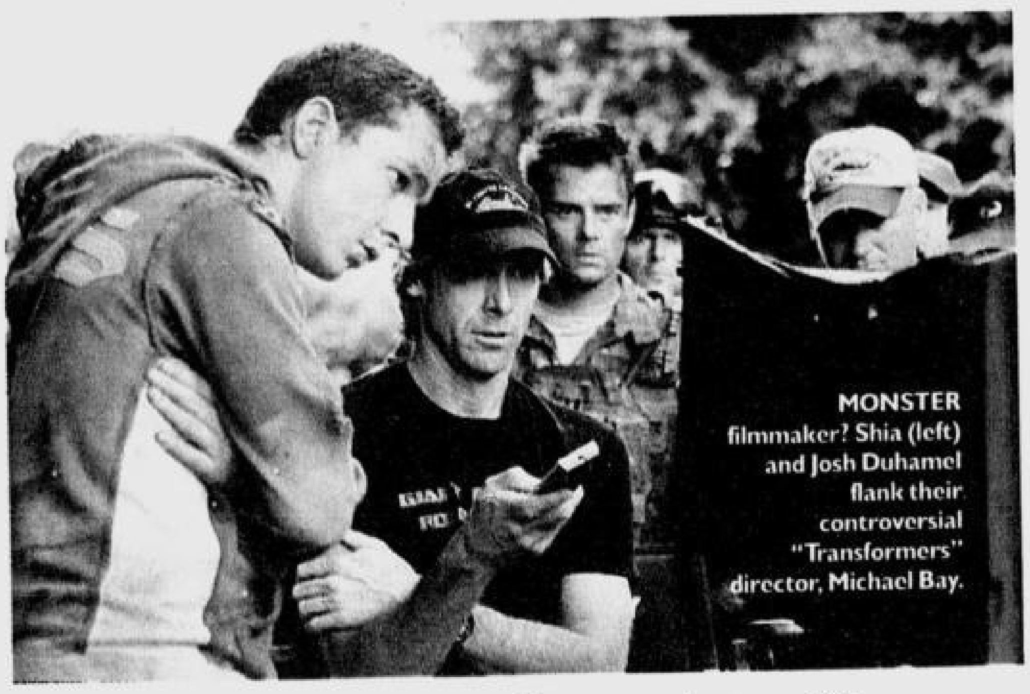

MONSTER filmmaker? Shia (left) and Josh Duhamel flank their controversial "Transformers" director, Michael Bay.

Shia LaBeouf on 'Indiana Jones 4,' 'Transformers'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LONDON—SHIA LABEOUF WAS INITIALLY tight-lipped about his plum casting in the fourth "Indiana Jones" movie. The actor jested that a sniper at the top of the stairs of the uber-trendy Sanderson Hotel would shoot him if he blabbered.

Eventually, Shia talked about "Indiana Jones and the City of the Gods" (working title); his other big film, "Transformers," and its "monster" director, **Michael Bay**; his difficult name; and girls, among other topics.

The brand-new adult (he turned 21 on June 11) said a small gash on his right hand was a reminder of his intense training for "Indiana Jones 4," set for release in May next year. On this rainy London afternoon, he seemed like an adult, indeed—well, a young adult—curly hair slicked back, a smart striped dress shirt, tie, vest and jeans in shades of gray. He confessed that a stylist was responsible for the look.

"I didn't dress myself today," said Shia, fresh from the surprisingly strong showing of his thriller, "Disturbia," at the box office. "I'm in a baby mode. I do what they tell me."

In contrast, Shia's "Transformers" co-star, **Josh Duhamel**, had dressed himself and became self-conscious when asked about his clothes. He quipped that, because of his relationship with Black Eyed Peas singer **Fergie**, "My hip-hop knowledge is solid now."

We interviewed Josh, Shia, and Michael Bay, who wore his trademark cap, and hot newcomer **Megan Fox** in separate press cons at Sanderson. How trendy is this hotel? The

SHIA/ J3

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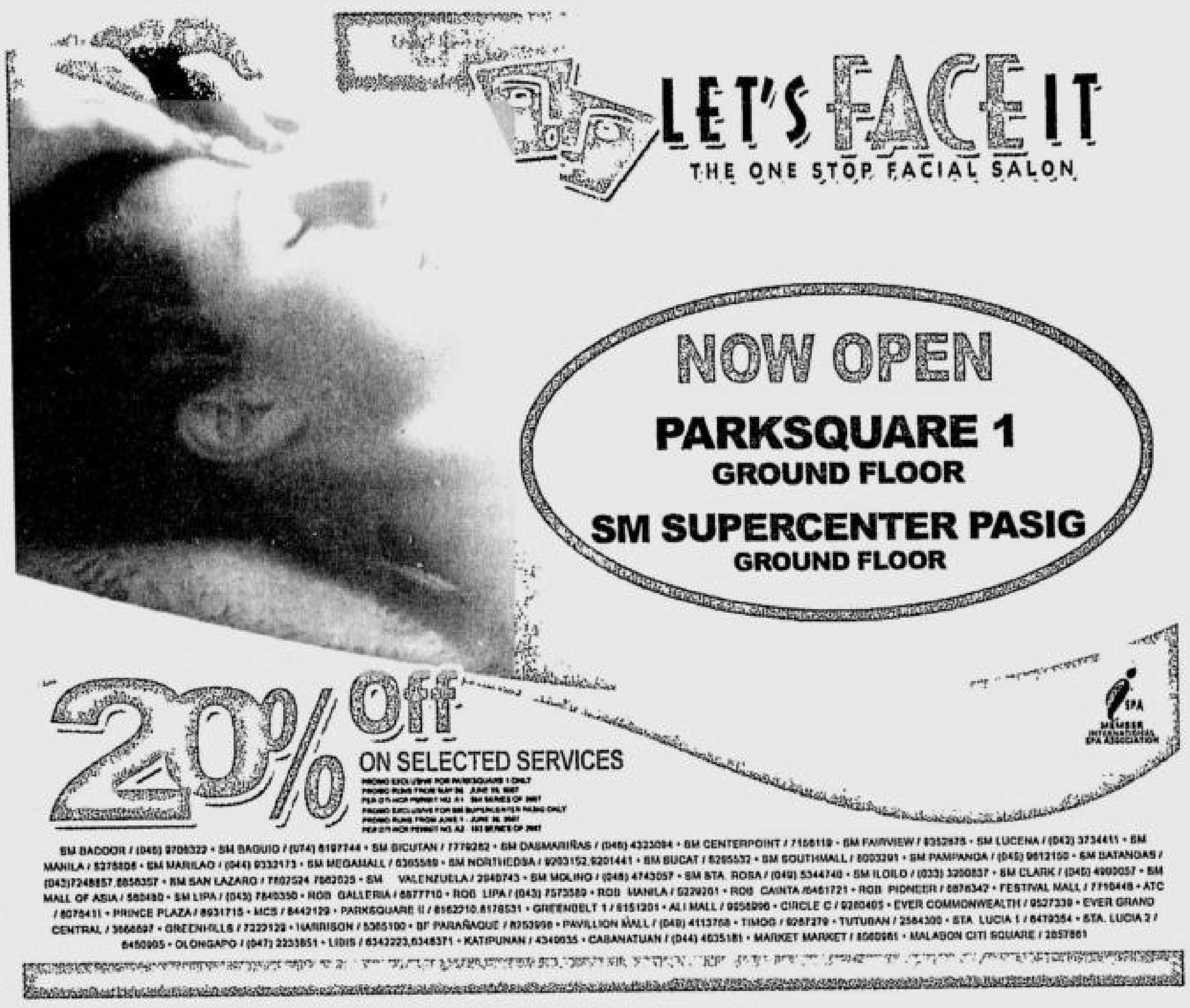

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11:00 AM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

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Admission Prices: P 250
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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 BUG
6 NEXT

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1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 BUG
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 NEXT
8 OCEAN'S 13
9 INVISIBLES
10 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 NEXT
8 BUG
9 FANTASTIC FOUR
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 ANGELS
12 INVISIBLES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ANGELS
2 INVISIBLES
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 NEXT
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 TRANSFORMERS
11 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
12 BUG

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 BUG
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 NEXT
10 INVISIBLES

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 TRANSFORMERS
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3 FANTASTIC FOUR
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5 NEXT
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2 NEXT
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10 TRANSFORMERS
11 BUG
12 INVISIBLES

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3 FRACTURE
4 TRANSFORMERS

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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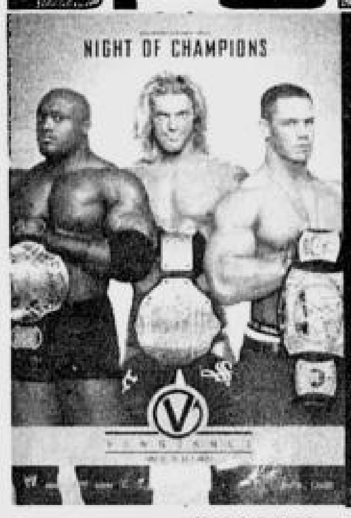

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5 TRANSFORMERS
6 NEXT
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 INVISIBLES

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3 TRANSFORMERS
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3 FANTASTIC FOUR
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5 INVISIBLES
6 TRANSFORMERS

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 28 WEEKS LATER
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SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 LUCKY YOU
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 RESERVED
8 BORDERTOWN

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 INVISIBLES
6 CONDEMNED
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
8 TRANSFORMERS

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 28 WEEKS LATER
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
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5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TRANSFORMERS
7 NEXT
8 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
9 INVISIBLE
10 BUG

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2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC 4
3 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
4 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC 4

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 BUG
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 EVANGELINE KATORSE

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2 WILDERNESS
3 EVANGELINE KATORSE
4 RESERVED

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1 NEXT
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR

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2 TRANFORMERS

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2 WILDERNESS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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4 TRANSFORMERS

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2 EVANGELINE KATORSE
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4 ZU WARRIOR
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2 WILDERNESS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 TRANSFORMERS

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2 CHECK INN

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CHEER FACTOR

Another first for Lea, RP

HERE'S another first for super-Pinay Lea Salonga—and the Philippines.

She is on the cover of the July 2007 issue of Catholic Digest, a 71-year old publication in the US (readership base: 2.5 million).

The magazine is known for connecting faith with everyday life. Julie Rattey, managing editor, wrote the story on the world-famous singer-actress titled, "This is the career God has chosen for me." It traces Lea's career from the time she started at age 6.

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MTRCB GP
2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30

2 TRANSFORMERS
MTRCB GP
12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00

4 TRANSFORMERS
MTRCB GP
1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE — TRANSFORMERS (GP) 12:00, 5:40

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8:05 , 10:50 GP

CINEMA 5 TRANSFORMERS
11:10 , 1:55 ,4:40
7:25 , 10:10 GP

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FANTASTIC FOUR: Rise of the Silver Surfer G 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	TRANSFORMERS G 12:20,3:00,5:40, 8:20,11:00	TRANSFORMERS G 1:20,4:00,6:40,9:20
TRANSFORMERS G 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50	BUG R13 1:20,3:35,5:50, 8:05,10:20	TRANSFORMERS G 2:20,5:00,7:50,10:20

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Shia LaBeouf on 'Indiana Jones . . .

From page J1

stairwell area from the lobby to the mezzanine—ceiling, walls, steps and floors—is painted in avocado green. "Shrek" green.

And how is "Transformers," which was shown to us at The Soho Hotel's screening room? The movie about robots that can change into a variety of objects is a typical Michael Bay production—very loud. It will probably make tons of money. Both "Transformers" and "Indiana Jones 4" are co-produced by Steven Spielberg.

Josh, who plays an Army captain whose small brigade in Qatar is the target of a bizarre attack, comments on Michael's "monster" reputation: "He's not afraid to say if you're bringing it or not. I admire that about the guy. He doesn't care if he's hurting people's feelings. He doesn't care about anything other than making the best film he can. He has a reputation for being a hard ass or a screamer. But he doesn't scream—he just talks loudly into a megaphone (laughter). To take on a movie of this size requires a leader who has one vision and sees it through. Say what you want, but you can't dispute the fact that he sees things on a very large scale."

SHIA LaBeouf, just turned 21, all dressed up for the part and big roles, at the Sanderson Hotel in London. RUBEN V. NEPALES

Here are excerpts of our press con with Shia, whose saga with his name (pronounced "Shy-uh La-buff," and which means "Thank God for beef" in Yiddish) continues. The actor has a cool sense of humor. "I was recently in France," he said. "They said Shia means shit—so my name means shit the beef out."

Were you surprised at the success of "Disturbia"?

Nobody expected that. I think it struck a chord with people because we came out at the right time, when the gore porn films were coming out. The movie is the biggest success in my career. It's great.

You just turned 21. What present did you give yourself? How did you celebrate?

I didn't get many gifts. It's hard to buy [stuff]for me because I already have what I want. Five of my best friends and I had a **Humphrey Bogart** night. We got "dappered up" and went to a cigar lounge, drank Scotch, listened to jazz. We felt really grown up. [But] my friends don't look good in suits so it was a really lame group. We were trying to act like we were supposed to be there. Everybody's looking at us like, you don't belong (laughter). We were like, we know.

How successful are you with babes as your success grows?

I have [people] trying to coach me. I remember doing "Project Greenlight" with **Amy Smart.** I was in love with her. But she was older ... it would have been a dream come true for me [but] extremely awkward for her. She was dating a hockey player [and] I was just some slacker guy. I've never been successful with women. I'm learning, though.

Are your parents excited that you are in two big movies?

My father doesn't really get hyped much on films. You tell him you're doing "Transformers" and he doesn't know what that is. But you say something like "Indiana Jones" ... My mom's got a crush on Harrison Ford. She's always like, "Tell him I said hi!" It's been fun for them. They're going through more changes than I am.

Will the fourth "Indiana Jones" follow the tone of the earlier ones?

I would imagine [so]. **Steven Spielberg** does not have to make this movie; it's not like a financial decision. So this is a passion project.

Can you tell us more?

Steven is going to kill me. I can say that Harrison is jacked. He's ready to go. We've been stunt-training for two months. I've never trained for anything so hard.

You've been quoted as saying, in an admiring sense, that Michael Bay is "the sickest action director on the planet."

You hear that he's hard to work with. I didn't meet that guy. He's like walking adrenaline. You show up at 6 a.m. and you wouldn't need breakfast or coffee. You just say hi to Bay and you're good to go. I've never seen anybody multi-task like that—14 units going on at once. We shot in 80 days, for $140 million. He's like doing 80 set-ups a day, including exploding a building.

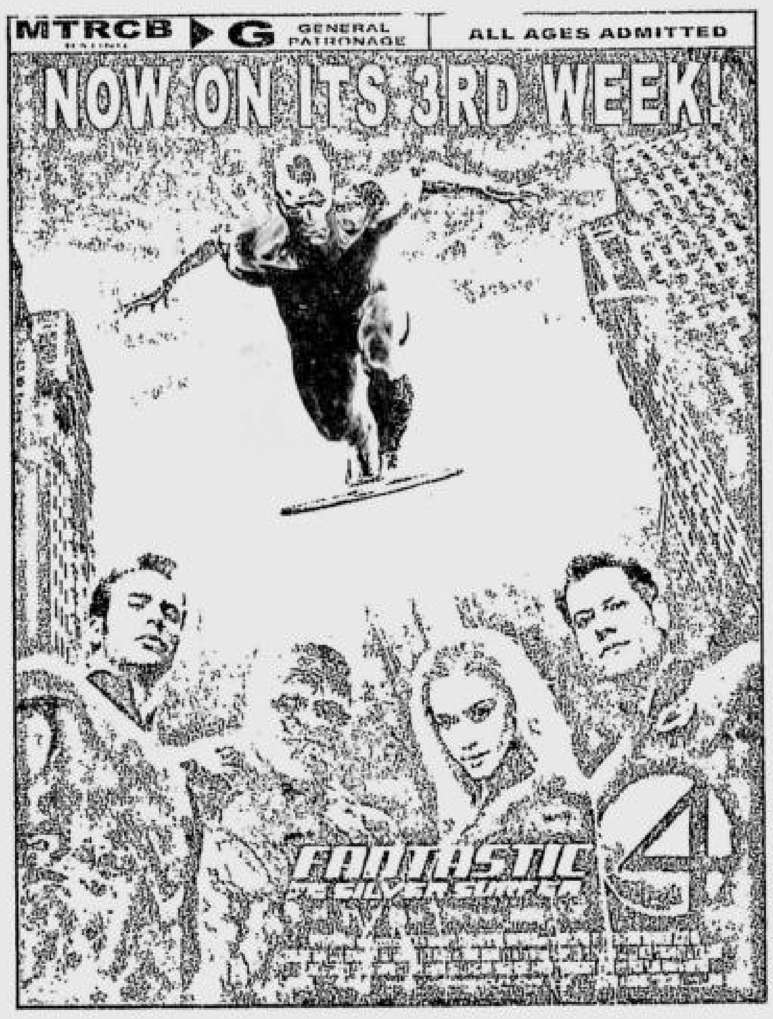
Which one is your favorite Transformer?

Optimus Prime. But in the movie, it's BumbleBee.

In the movie, when you're first trying to pick up Megan's character, your car responds with sexy songs. What would you play in your own car to be seductive?

Um, sex song? "Puff the Magic Dragon."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.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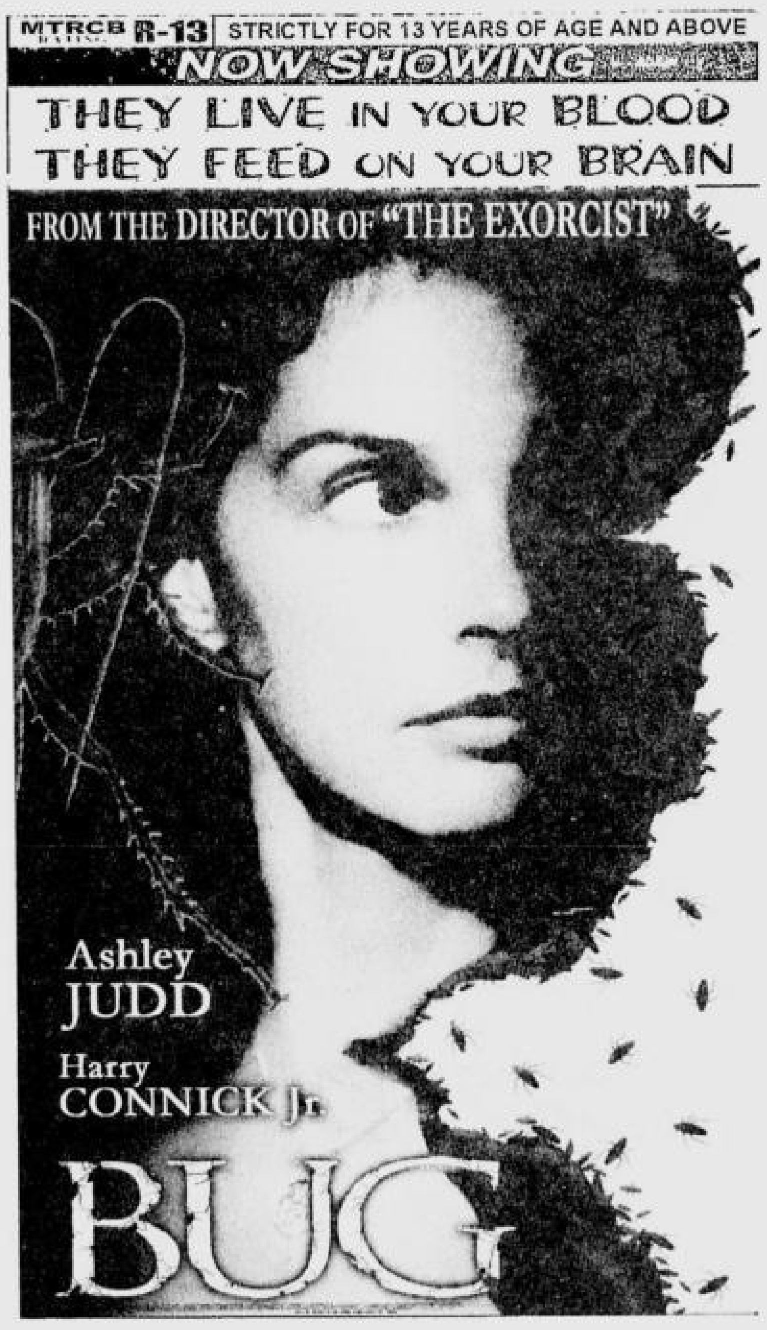
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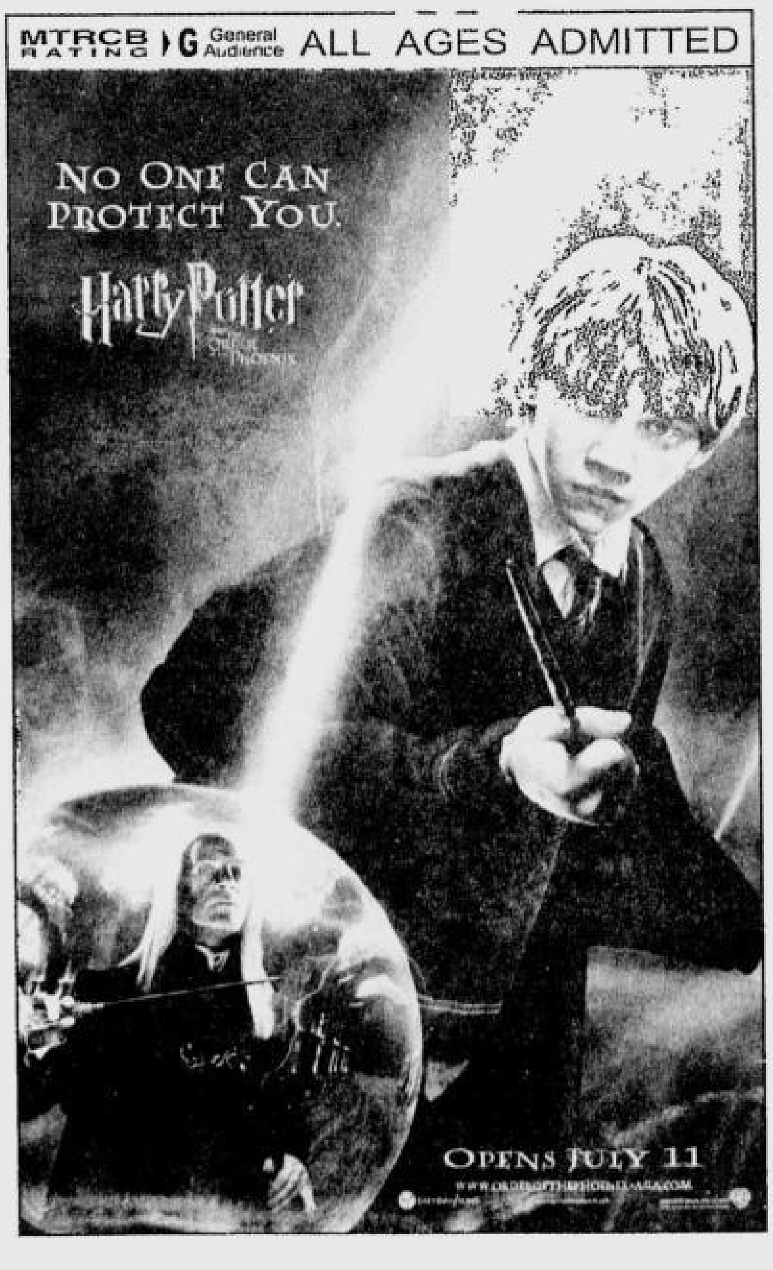
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1:05MF 3:50 6:35 9:20LMF
2 TRANSFORMERS
10:50MF 1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50LMF
3 TRANSFORMERS
12:35MF 3.20 6.05
4 TRANSFORMERS
11:35MF 2:20 5:05
5 BUG
12:00MF 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00LMF
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:10MF 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50LMF
7 THE INVISIBLE
12:30MF 2:50 5:10LMF
8 indieSine: MORENO
1.30MF 3:20 5:10 7:00 8:50LMF
9 NEXT
1.20MF 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00LMF
10 KAPE KARMA
12:00MF 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00LMF

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7 THE INVISIBLE
NEXT

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 BUG
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6 TRANSFORMERS
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 THE INVISIBLE
NEXT

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 THE INVISIBLE
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6 NEXT

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1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 BUG
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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1 TRANSFORMERS
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FIREHOUSE DOG
5 THE CONDEMNED

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2 TRANSFORMERS
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4 ZODIAC
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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WILDERNESS

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 ANGELS
5 BORDERTOWN
6 WILDERNESS

STARMILLS

1 TRANSFORMERS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FRACTURE
4 WILDERNESS
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6 TRANSFORMERS

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 RESERVE
5 28 WEEKS LATER
6 LETTER to IWO JIMA

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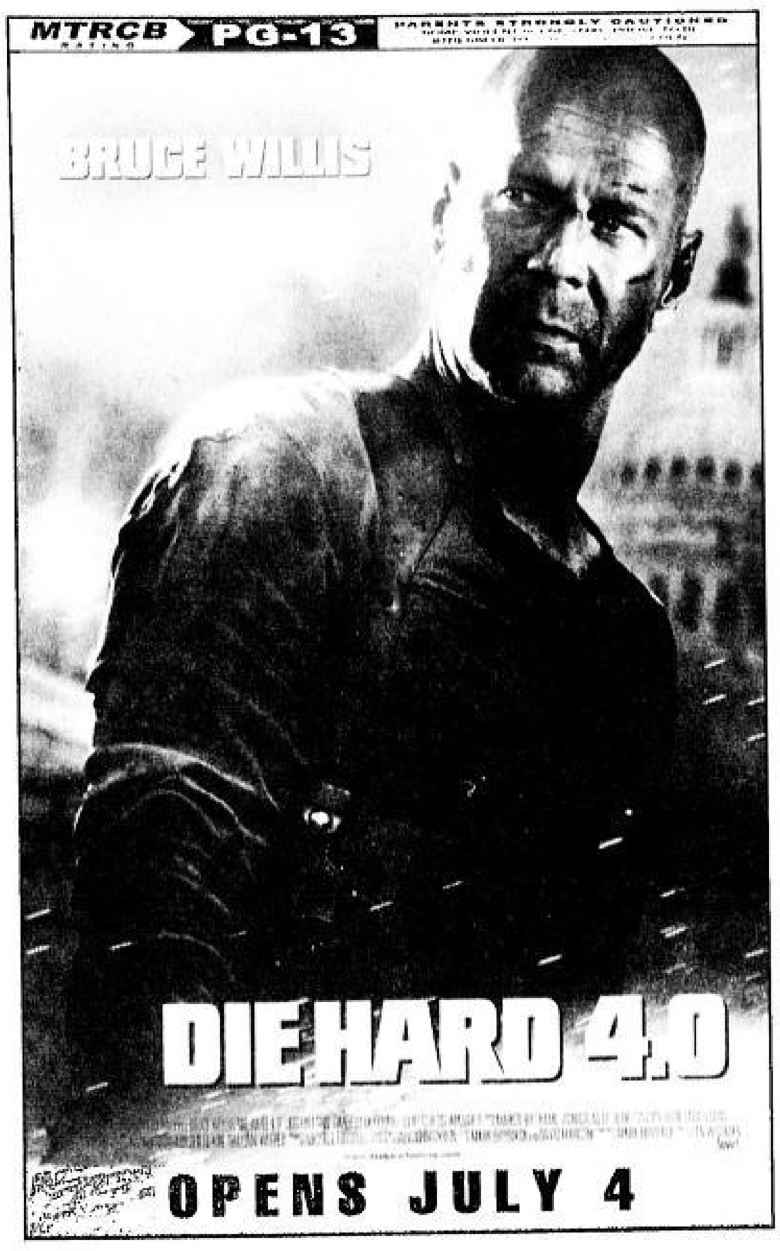


Actor-model team named 'Stars on Ice' champion

By Armin Adina
Photos by Edwin Bacasmas

ACTOR-MODEL VICTOR BASA and his partner emerged champions of "Stars on Ice," a four-month competition patterned after the US' "Skating with Celebrities."

They bested four other teams from the tilt's three batches, taking home P250,000 in cash.

Hosted by Arnel Ignacio and daughter Sofia, the competition held at the SM Mall of Asia Ice Skating Rink early this month pitted show biz personalities against each other, with professional figure skaters as partners.

The finals' theme was "Around the World," with the tunes depicting different countries.

Victor performed Liza Minelli's "New York, New York" with Philippine skating champ Verniece Enciso. They got P100,000 each; the remaining P50,000 went to their coach, Alberto Aguilar.

Finals judge Ina Feleo, former skating champion and daughter of actor Johnny Delgado and director Laurice Guillien, told the winners, "You are strong skaters, *malinis ang* execution."

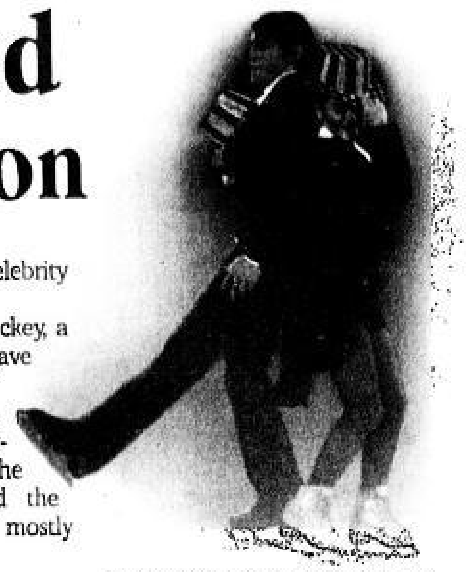
Another celebrity judge, dance instructor Regine Tolentino, found the performance "almost perfect."

Skating director Nardie Aranton, resident judge, was pleased, as well, and said the presentation was "solid." He said Victor was the "most consistent" among the celebrity contenders.

Victor used to play ice hockey, a factor which, he believed, gave him an edge.

He faced fellow batch three competitor Mico Aytona, a wildcard pick. The young heartthrob received the loudest cheers from the mostly young female spectators.

PAOLO Ballesteros and Mae Mae Annonuevo



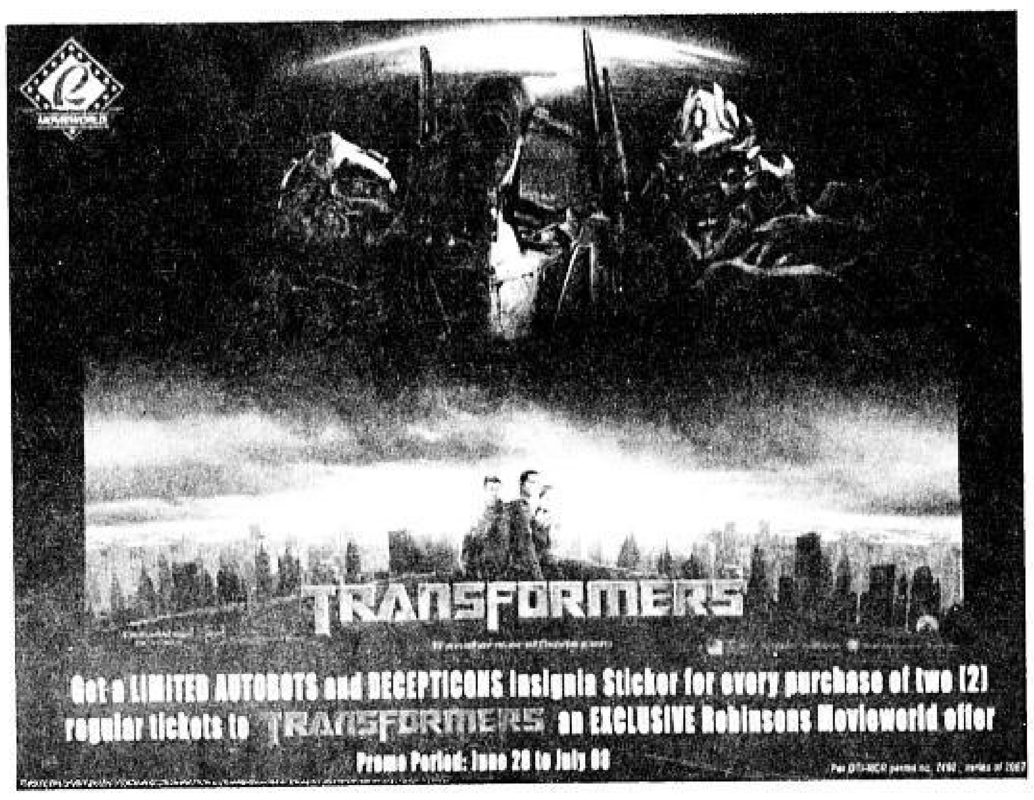
VICTOR Basa and his partner, Verniece Enciso

Mico and skating partner Ana Gabriel Trasporte rendered a romantic take on "La Vie en Rose."

"Eat Bulaga" host Paolo Ballesteros and Mae Mae Annonuevo, and actress-commercial model Nancy Castiglione and Kim Tagayuna, first batch champs, performed "Turning Japanese" and "Volare," respectively.

Former matinee idol Bobby Andrews and partner Leslie Ching of batch two gave a colorful interpretation of "One Night in Bangkok."

The championship event airs tonight at 8:30 p.m. on QTV 11.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Why 'Kuya' loves being hated

By Marinel R. Cruz

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE "PINOY BIG BROTHER" production team enjoys receiving hate mail.

"'Big Brother' thrives on talk and controversy," said Lauren Dyogi, PBB director and business unit manager. "In fact, Endemol has advised us to have the program talked about; [otherwise] it could mean people are not interested and, therefore, not watching."

Endemol Entertainment is the Dutch production outfit that created the "Big Brother" concept.

In a letter, one viewer said: "I [am] alarmed by the disgusting behavior [of one] female contestant. What's even more appalling is the nonchalant treatment ABS-CBN is giving it."

Another one complained: "Since the first season, I have observed one-sided editing that favors certain housemates. You can't blame [viewers] if we think you are protecting a certain housemate [now]— as in, *garapal talaga.*"

All that signifies viewer involvement, said Dyogi. "In the hot seat this week is Wendy Valdez. A lot of viewers disapprove of her reactions to certain situations. *[Pero] pasalamat na rin kami dito.*"

There's talk that people behind the show are themselves sending the hate mail, to rekindle public interest.

Dyogi denied this. "I have bosses who tell me off when something is amiss," he said. "We will not do anything to tarnish the show's or the network's integrity."

What the network did, he added, was to decide not to react to the hate mail. "Most of it was about Wendy. If I defend her, people would say she's my favorite. It's damned if we do, and damned if we don't. I could understand where she's coming from but I don't necessarily agree with [what she does]."

On Saturday, the widely popular Nel Rapiz, not Valdez, was evicted from Kuya's house. Dyogi offered this explanation: "My assumption is that Wendy haters don't necessarily vote for the other housemates. Personally, I'm frustrated—I felt Nel was a strong contender. I guess his supporters became complacent."

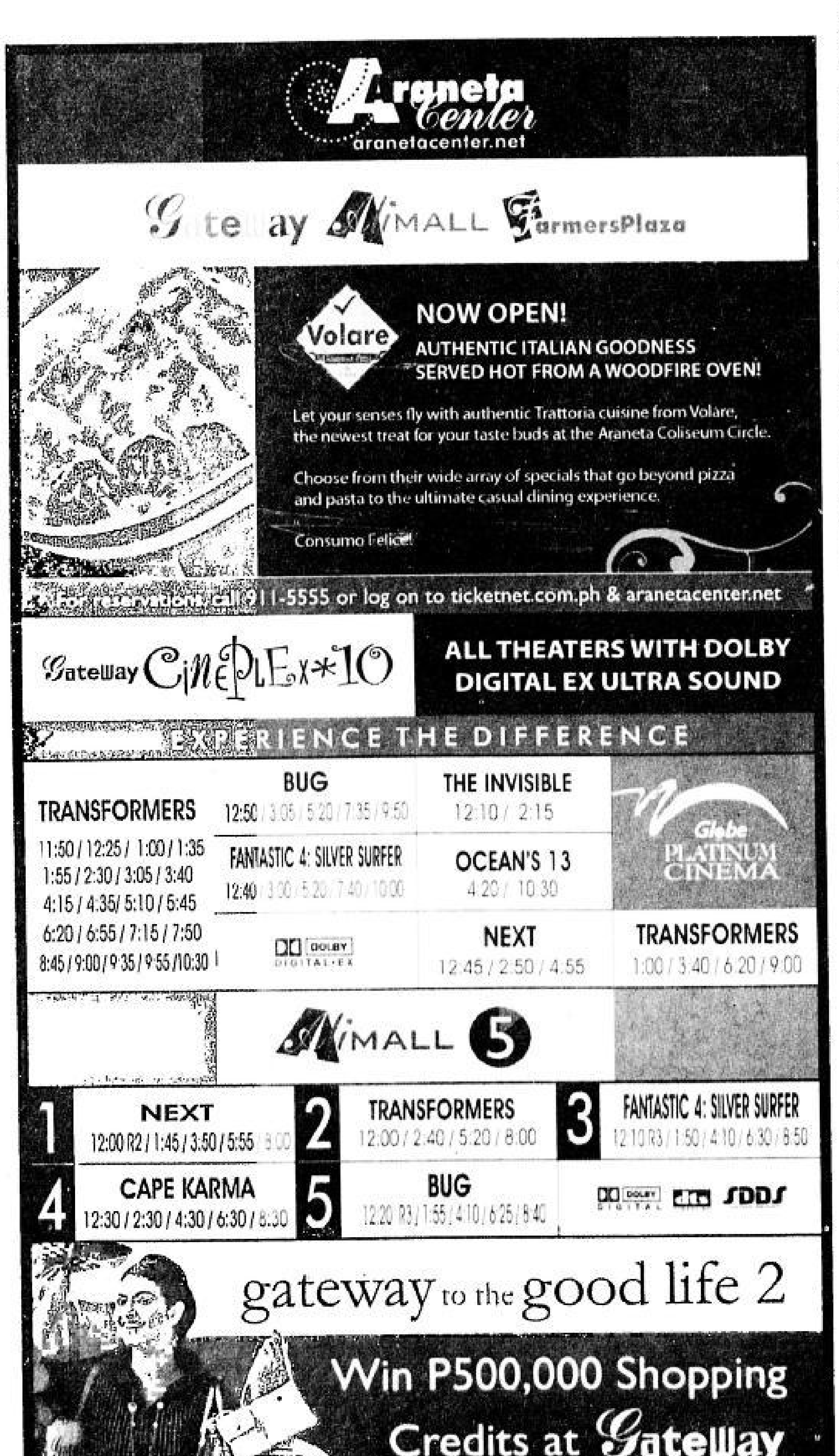
The director said that, while Rapiz got a record low of 3.75 votes, last Saturday's turn-out was the season's highest so far, at 800,000 votes.

On Tuesday night, Valdez's boyfriend, Bruce Quebral, got the boot. This prompted the network to release a statement the following day to assure the public: "The production staff of PBB and the management of ABS-CBN do not, in any way, interfere in the tabulation of the votes."

The PBB Big Night will be held at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City, and will be aired live on the Kapamilya Network.

"PINOY Big Brother" housemates (l-r) Mickey Perz, Wendy Valdez, Bruce Quebral, Bodie Cruz, Nel Rapiz, (seated) Geean Abraham and Bea Saw

Director: Criticism indicates people are interested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BUG 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50
THE INVISIBLE 12:10 / 2:15
FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00
OCEAN'S 13 4:20 / 10:30
Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
NEXT 12:45 / 2:50 / 4:55
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1 NEXT 12:00 R2 / 1:45 / 3:50 / 5:55 / 8:00
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3 FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER 12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
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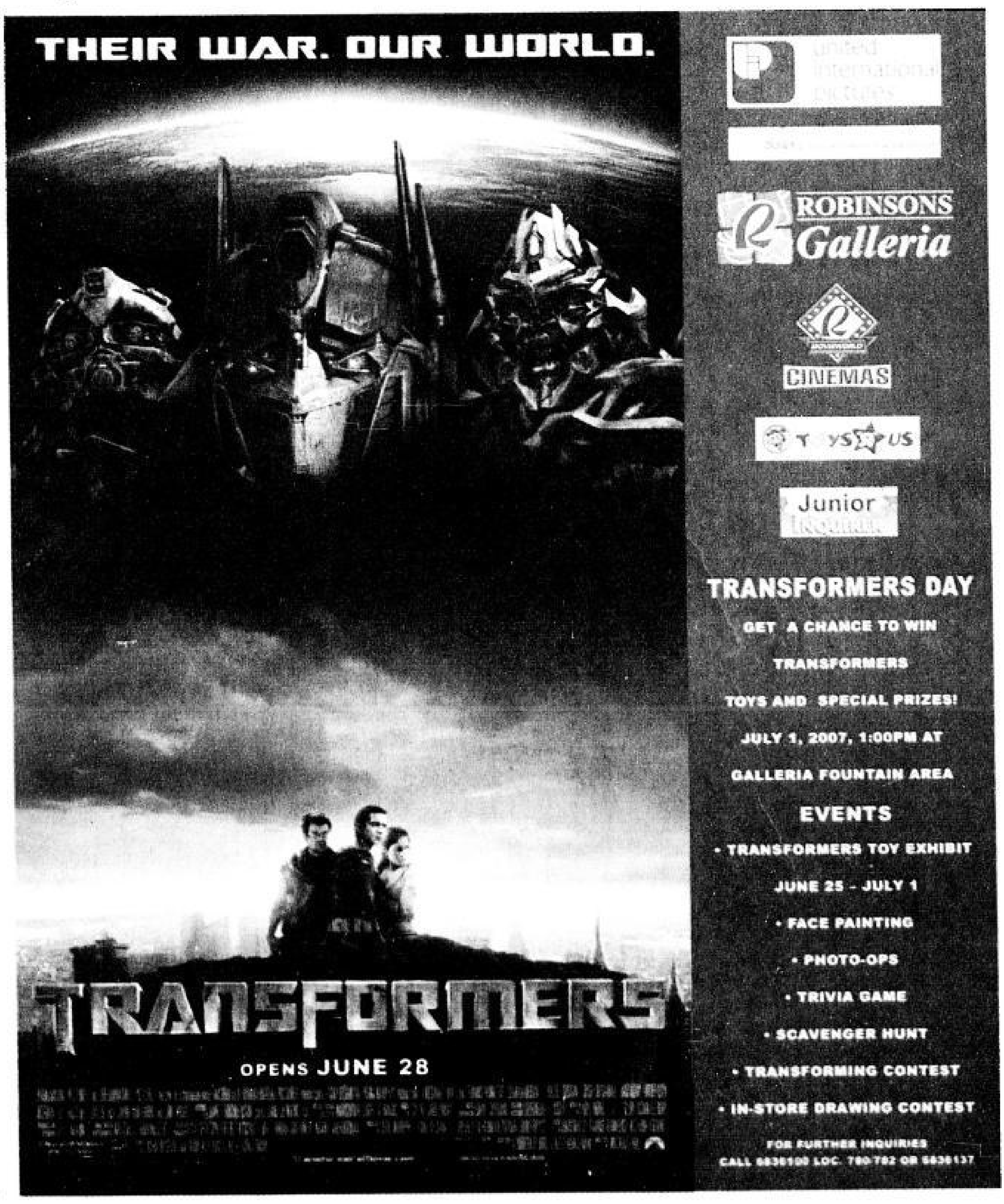

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